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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-064
Wednesday
3 April 1991

Daily Report
East Asia

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47th UN ESCAP Meeting Held in Seoul

Meeting Opens; Leaders Give Addresses

SK0104025191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0224 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—The 47th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Comission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) opened here Monday with more than 1,000 participants from 48 nations and some 70 international organizations.

Most of the delegations to the annual session are headed by minister- or vice minister-level officials.

Peace and regional cooperation were the themes set for the conference by President No Tae-u and ESCAP Executive-General Shah A.M.S. Kibria in speeches at the opening ceremony.

"As a new century draws near, the world is going through systematic change," the Korean president said in opening the session. "The cold war system that had separated the world as well as humanity and caused confrontation and war has now collapsed.

"The primary challenge before us today is to turn this vast region into a zone of open-doors and mutual cooperation by marshalling the unbounded potentials of Asia and the Pacific, the region's enormous dynamism toward progress and our aspirations for peace and prosperity.

"Because the Republic of Korea, rising from the ruins of a war, has become a newly industrializing country within one generation, we are perhaps in a unique position, and we are prepared to actively share with everyone our developmental experiences and know-how," he said.

ESCAP, one of the five regional commissions under the United Nations Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC], addresses non- political issues for 38 full and 10 associate members in Asia and the Pacific.

The session, its official theme "Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific," is expected to produce specific measures for regional cooperation that will be laid out in a "Seoul declaration" adopted at the end of its 10-day run.

The ceremony began with a message from U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar read by Antoine Blanca, director-general for development and international economic cooperation at the Seoul session.

"The fact that this session of the commission is being held in Seoul, as the first major United Nations conference to be hosted by the Republic of Korea, is a tribute to a country and people who have demonstrated to the whole world what determination and sound economic policies can achieve," the message said.

Voicing concern over the widening gap between the rich and poor nations in the Asia-Pacific region, the secretary-general called on ESCAP to face the challenge of not merely sustaining present levels of economic growth but to "reduce poverty through integrating the poor into the mainstream economic activities."

Kibria, similarly emphasizing the importance of economic issues, said: "Foremost among the issues before you is the question of strengthened regional economic cooperation while preserving an open trading arrangement.

"(Korea's hosting of the session) serves as a clear reaffirmation of the Republic of Korea's commitment to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific."

ROK President No Tae-u Addresses Meeting

SK0104032391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u declared Monday that the world was awash in a tide of reconciliation and cooperation, and that the waves would bring encouraging changes to the Asia-Pacific region.

No also called on Asia-Pacific nations to promote mutually beneficial cooperative relations, saying they had set an example in South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation. He was giving the opening address at the 47th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

No said ESCAP had made an enormous contribution to promoting economic wellbeing, friendship and cooperation among the nations of the region since it was established in 1947 and noted that 44 years had passed since the region was plagued by poverty, ignorance and backwardness, with the vestiges of colonialism and global conflagration everywhere.

"Today the Asia-Pacific has become a most vibrant and dynamic region with a highest rate of growth in the world and it accounts for over 40 percent of the world's trade volume and more than 50 percent of the global output comes from this vast region," the president said.

"Almost 58 percent of the total population of our global village have joined hands in this region to pursue an Asia-Pacific identity and reaffirm our lasting commitment to world peace and prosperity of mankind.

"I join all the nations of the region in our appreciation for the favorable progress of history and in our hopes for a brighter future for the Asia-Pacific in the 21st century."

As the principal arm of the United Nations in the Asia-Pacific region and the most important vehicle of inter-governmental dialogue, ESCAP has played vital and invaluable roles in the process of regional development and will continue to play an important role to strengthen regional cooperation and promote friendly and cooperative relations among members and associate members, he said.

As a new century was drawing near, No said, the world would go through a systematic change and the cold war relics of division and confrontation would vanish.

"If, however, we are to attain the world we want, we have yet to surmount numerous challenges including disputes stemming from race, religion, ideologies and prejudices, the gap between the haves and have-nots and others," No said.

"What has brought unprecedented progress and prosperity to our region in the postwar era was the free trade system. The primary challenge before us today is to turn this vast region into a zone of open-doors and mutual cooperation by marshalling the unbounded potentials of Asia and the Pacific, the region's enormous dynamism toward progress and our aspirations for peace and prosperity."

Korea has diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and nations in central and Eastern Europe, has exchanged trade representative offices with China, and is in the process of expanding areas of economic cooperation with these countries.

"As a leading developing country, Korea is prepared to actively contribute to the promotion of harmonious regional cooperation by playing the role of a bridge between the advanced and developing countries and between the market and socialist economies, he said."

"We are seeking to realize peaceful national unification by first improving exchanges and cooperation between South and North Korea and by pursuing a relationship in which both will help each other and contribute jointly toward the attainment of common prosperity," the South Korean leader said.

No said his government was aware that relaxation of tension on the Korean Peninsula and improved relations between South and North Korea were the keys to cooperation and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

It was wrong that Korea was not a U.N. member, No said, calling it direct contravention of the principle of universality that a sovereign state with a population of 43 million and the world's 12th largest trading nation with an annual 130 billion dollars should be outside the United Nations.

"Therefore, we continue to seek membership in the United Nations. It is better to carry out our share of international responsibilities and contribution for the Asia-Pacific and the world."

Seats for both South and North Korea until the peninsula was unified would be conducive to peace and stability, not only for Korea but the entire region, No said.

PRC Vice Foreign Minister Addresses Meeting

SK0104104191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0940 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—Liu Huaqiu, vice Chinese foreign minister, said Monday that his nation wants to host the next general meeting of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

"As 1992 is ESCAP's 45th anniversary, I hereby declare on behalf of the Chinese Government that China invites ESCAP to hold its 48th annual session in Beijing in the blooming session of next spring," said Liu, head Chinese delegate to the 47th ESCAP Seoul session opened earlier in the day at Lotte Hotel.

Liu made the remarks in his key-note speech at a plenary session.

Key-note speeches were made by head delegates of seven nations, including host South Korea, Japan, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Pakistan and Nepal and two international organizations—the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

Saying that restructuring and cooperation are two mutually complementing aspects in the regional economic development, Liu demanded that they should be manifested in the following seven aspects—correction of imbalance in the region's development, expansion of multilateral open trade system, full use of regional financial resources, promotion of technology transfer, development of human resoures, special needs of the least developed countries, and exploration of new areas of regional cooperation.

Touching on China's policy line, Liu called the 1990s a "very crucial period for the Chinese people in their endeavour to build socialism with Chinese characteristics."

"Adherence to reform and openness is China's basic state policy. .. Political reform will be continued," the vice foreign minister said.

"China is committed to its economic development and to its policy of further deepening the reform and opening wider to the outside world," he said, "in the next decade, China's friendly relations with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region will be even closer, mutual exchanges more frequent and mutually beneficial cooperation even more fruitful."

Yi ki-chu, South Korean assistant foreign minister for economic affairs, voiced concern over deteriorating world economy in the 1990s. "Regionalism and bilateralism in trade are gaining momentum," Yi said. "Protectionist trends are still on the rise in the developed countries."

"With the end of ideological conflict and with the new world order taking shape, nations will compete more and more for material gain. The fundamental challenge will be for nations to sacrifice immediate interests for greater future gain," the South Korean official said.

"The ESCAP region has emerged as an important area for trade and investment for my country. In 1989, our trade with the ESCAP region amounted to 52 billion U.S. billion dollars, accounting for 42 percent of our total trade," Yi noted.

"In the same year, our import from other developing countries of the ESCAP region amounted to 6.7 billion dollars, which registered an increase of 1.2 billion dollars over 1988," he said.

South Korean investment in the ESCAP region in 1990 reached 900 million dollars, accounting for 37 percent of its total overseas investment, he also said.

"As we approach the 21st century, we must tackle the challenges that confront us with collective wisdom for a century of prosperity," he emphasized.

Muneo Suzuki, Japanese parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs, similarly called for an effort for a balanced economic development in the Asia-Pacific region.

"It is a fact," he said, "that some developing countries in the region have not fully benefited from economic development, owing to the fragility of their economies," he said.

"I believe that, in terms of industrial restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, which is a main topic of the present session, the facilitation of appropriate free-trade policies and improvement of the investment environment by the developed and developing countries in the region are the first and most important step to be taken," the vice minister said.

Turning to the environmental issue, Suzuki said Japan was willing to play "an active role" for the preservation of the global environment.

More on Liu Huaqiu Remarks

SK0204100591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0925 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu, now in Seoul at the head of the Chinese delegation to the 47th session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP], is obviously keen not to give hopeful signs regarding Seoul-Beijing ties, observers at the ESCAP session say.

The seasoned diplomat, widely believed to be a protege of Premier Li Peng, mentioned neither the host country nor South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok in congratulating Yi on his election as Seoul session chairman at the beginning of his speech Monday.

"It is a general practice to mention the host country's name in an international conference," a South Korean official said. China, a strong ally of North Korea, does not have diplomatic relations with South Korea.

Japanese Diplomat Speaks on Open Trade System

OW0104135491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1334 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 KYODO—Asian and Pacific nations should give priority to opening their economies in reorganizing their industrial structures to meet a new era in the world economy, a Japanese diplomat said Monday.

Speaking at the opening session of the 47th general meeting of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Muneo Suzuki said ESCAP nations are now required to adjust their industrial structures to meet a new economic world emerging in the wake of post-Persian Gulf war rehabilitation and ongoing world trade talks.

"It is most important for both developed and developing nations to move first to adopt open trade policies in accordance with their economies and foster an investment environment," said Suzuki, Japanese parliamentary vice foreign minister.

Japan, for its part, will continue to play a positive role in activating ESCAP and provide financial and technical assistance to developing nations in the ESCAP region, Suzuki said.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu, the first high-level Chinese official to visit Seoul, proposed at the opening session that ESCAP hold its next session in Beijing next spring.

Liu, referring to structural adjustment and cooperation among ESCAP member nations, said that this must be carried out with the aim of rising above poverty and narrowing the development gap among ESCAP member nations.

He also pointed to the need to promote multilateral trade and the effective transfer of technologies from developed countries to developing countries.

The ESCAP meeting began at a hotel here for a 10-day run with about 1,000 delegates from 48 ESCAP member nations gathering to discuss ways to promote regional cooperation and industrial restructuring.

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives in Seoul

SK0304094791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0935 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev arrived in Seoul Wednesday evening to attend the 47th session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), now in its third day.

As head of the Soviet delegation, Rogachev is to meet with session Chairman Yi Sang-ok, the Korean foreign minister, later Thursday and is expected to explain the results of the Soviet-China foreign ministers' talks held in Beijing Tuesday.

Rogachev will meet with Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha on Thursday morning to discuss pending issues, including one related to the downing of a Korean jetliner by a Soviet fighter plane over the island of Sakhalin in 1983. Yu will ask for a Soviet explanation.

The trip comes as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is about to visit Japan, scheduled in mid-April, and Rogachev is expected to discuss a side trip to Korea.

It is Rogachev's second visit to Seoul. In early January he attended a Korea-Soviet policy consultative meeting as presidential envoy.

Committee Chairmen Selected at ESCAP Meeting

SK0104055091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0526 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—The plenary meeting of the 47th United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) got under way Monday, starting by electing South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok as chairman.

Elected chairman of the Committee of the Whole I was Manaspas Xuto [name as received], the Thai ambassador to Italy, and elected chairman of the Committee of the Whole II was Saied Kalantar-nia [name as received], head of Plan and Budget Organization for Iran's International Economics Bureau.

The session adopted the agenda for the 10-day meeting, titled "Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific."

ESCAP also gained two members. Kiribati, which joined as an associate member in 1973, became a full member and Macao entered for the first time as an associate member.

The morning plenary session also chose 19 vice chairmen. They are the chief delegates from Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga and Vietnam.

"The forty-seventh session of ESCAP offers us an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the role of regional cooperation," Yi said in accepting the chairmanship.

State Luncheon Held for ESCAP Delegates

ROK President Speaks

SK0204054191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0504 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u, lauding member nations of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), called on them Tuesday to usher in "a new era of prosperity in the region by harmonizing diversities."

Speaking at a luncheon for chief delegates to the 47th ESCAP session at Chongwadae, the presidential residence, No called the progress in Asia-Pacific over the last four decades "a miracle."

"Those of us around the table are first-hand witnesses to the dynamic, brilliant and remarkable progress the vast Asia-Pacific region has achieved between (the end of World War II) and now," he said.

"The story of four decades of Asian-Pacific progress is indeed a miracle, the parallels of which are not found in the history of mankind. And the Korean people have made their share of contribution in the creation of this miracle, and I am very proud of it," No told the delegates to the ESCAP meeting.

As the season in the northern hemisphere passed from winter to spring, the president voiced the hope that the political climate on the Korean Peninsula would become warm enough for unification.

"The 70 million Korean people are full of hope that the spring of reconciliation will soon arrive in the long-frozen Demilitarized Zone in Korea," No said.

Shifting to a musical metaphor, he told the delegates that a choir was "not a unison but a harmony."

"By respecting differences and harmonizing diversities amongst us, we should be able to build a new era of prosperity in Asia- Pacific, just as flowers of different variety make up a flower garden in beautiful harmony," the president said.

ROK, ESCAP Officials Meet on UN Membership

SK0204081991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0730 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—The United Nations wants South Korea to join its fold this year, U.N. Undersecretary- general for Political and General Affairs Ronald Spiers said Tuesday.

"We hope Korea's admission to the United Nations will be settled within the year," Spiers told Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok. "I hope it takes place."

Seoul would like to enter the world body, simultaneously with North Korea if possible but with separate membership. North Korea has repeatedly called for joint entry with a shared seat.

Yi and Spiers met at a session of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), under way here since Monday.

Yi, chairman of the plenary session, also met with Antoine Blanca, U.N. director-general for development and international cooperation, Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, minister of the Thai Prime Minister's Office, and Muneo Suzuki, Japan's parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs.

Yi told Blanca that one reason Korea seeks U.N. entry is to take on the responsibility of a growing country.

Blanca said he fully understood this position and hoped for a solution satisfactory to both Koreas, ministry officials said.

Kasemsi, Thailand's chief ESCAP delegate, similarly expressed support for South Korean membership and said Korea had met all the requirements for entry. He also asked that South Korea and Thailand jointly undertake Gulf postwar reconstruction projects.

Suzuki, touching on recent diplomatic talks between North Korea and his country, said Tokyo would not hurry diplomatic normalization with Pyongyang and would adhere to a five-point request made by Seoul.

UN Official Discusses Entry

SK0204093091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0847 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—A senior U.N. official said Tuesday he expected a consensus in the Security Council of South Korea's membership in the United Nations.

Antoine Balanca, director-general for development and international economic cooperation, declined to give his opinion on whether China will veto South Korea's application. Blanca is attending the 47th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP] as the representative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

At a news conference, Blanca said the United Nations attached high value to the South Korean role in ESCAP, because the country had special significance for the theme of the meeting: Economic Development and Social Progress.

Korea achieved its growth in less than a generation and set a good example for other developing nations, he said.

Real peace and stability in the world are unachievable without an international effort to narrow the gap between the haves and have- nots, the former French ambassador to Argentina said.

More on Entry Prospects

SK0204113291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0904 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea cannot improve on its positioning for U.N. membership by taking a wait-and- see attitude any longer, Ronald Spiers, U.N. undersecretary-general for political and general assembly affairs, said Tuesday.

Spiers made the statement in a question-and-answer session after speaking at a seminar hosted by the U.N. Association of Republic of Korea, affiliated with the World Federation U.N.A.

"Compared with last year's situations, there have not been substantial changes in the matter of Korea's entry into the world body on both international and U.N. scenes, and there will not be any in the near future," said the 66-year-old U.N. official, who arrived Sunday at the invitation of the Korean Foreign Ministry.

Korea will find all but unanimous support for its membership, though it is unclear whether China, a permanent member of the Security Council, will use its veto, said the highest ranking U.N. official visiting Seoul in two decades.

China is an ally of North Korea but is showing highly flexible attitudes toward the matter.

Intererest in Korea's joining the world body is running wild and has become one of the hottest inter-Korean issues. Seoul wants simultaneous entry with separate seats, while Pyongyang prefers sharing a single U.N. seat.

Asked about the Soviet role in reviving the United Nations, Spiers said it would have been nearly impossible without Soviet cooperation.

"The Soviet Union also has nearly paid all of its shared expenditures for the U.N. peace-keeping forces in the Gulf war," he said.

Turning to the U.N. budget, now about 700 million U.S. dollars in debt, he said the United States was 100 million dollars in arrears but would be able to solve the problem in time.

"If South Korea gets a membership, it will have to pay about 3 percent of the total budget," he added.

ESCAP Secretary on Membership

SK3003110991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0958 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—Chance is high for North Korea to get the green light for its membership of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), if it submits an application, said Shah Kibria, executive secretary of the organization, on Saturday.

Kibria, here for the 47th ESCAP meeting, said that North Korea is likely to win the ESCAP membership since the country, which is on the Korean peninsula, is located within the boundary of the regional body. He was speaking at a journalists round-table meeting in the conference venue of central Seoul's Lotte Hotel.

"If North Korea submits an application, it will go through deliberations at the U.N. Economic and Social Council," he said, revealing that he himself recently met with a North Korean official who asked ways to join the U.N. body at ESCAP Headquarters in Bangkok.

Asked if he had any intention to urge North Korea to be a member nation, Kibria said that he or his agency is not in a position to do so and that it is up to North Korea to apply for the membership.

Yi Chong-mu, director general of the International Economic Affairs Department at the South Korean Foreign Ministry, reaffirmed Seoul's position, saying that, "South Korea would welcome it very much if North Korea makes a bid to join the commission."

The matter of North Korea's entry into the establishment poses a crucial importance to the pending inter-Korean issue of joining the United Nations. If Pyongyang joins ESCAP, it would mean that North Korea may accept Seoul's proposal for simultaneous entry into the United Nations. Currently, Pyongyang has insisted on sharing a single U.N. seat by South and North Korea.

During the meeting, which was attended by some 40 officials and journalists, Kibria and Yi were sitting side by side, answering questions ranging from restructuring the unbalanced economies of the Asia-Pacific countries to environmental matters and a latest trend towards regional bloc economy.

Earlier in the meeting, held two days before the beginning of the conference, Kibria said that leaders of the region would use this forum to talk about basic economic and social issues and specific proposals under consideration.

While assuming the theme "Industrial Restructuring in Asia and Pacific," the ESCAP General Assembly will last for 10 days with an estimated 1,000 officials from 37 full members attending.

More on ESCAP Support

SK3103022491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 31 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Bangkok (OANA-YONHAP)—The U.N. Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific's [ESCAP's] general meeting in Seoul will help South Korea to join the United Nations, ESCAP Secretary-General S.A.M.S. Kibria said.

The commission will fully support North Korea if it wishes to enter ESCAP and is willing to hasten membership procedures if necessary, he said at ESCAP Headquarters here in an exclusive interview with YONHAP NEWS AGENCY.

The 47th ESCAP general meeting opens its 10-day run in Seoul April 1 with more than 1,000 representatives from 48 full and associate member nations.

The meeting has added significance as the host is not a U.N. member, Kibria pointed out.

In the Asia-Pacific region, where full-fledged political consultation bodies are lacking, ESCAP is a rare dialogue link between governments, he said.

All five members of the U.N. Security Council are full ESCAP members, and South Korea will be greeting ranking diplomatic officials from countries that have not yet normalized with Seoul. All things considered, the Seoul conference is expected to contribute greatly to South Korea's attempts to join the United Nations, Kibria said.

South Korea aims at entering the United Nations simultaneously with North Korea this year.

When asked about recommending North Korea to join the commission, Kibria said North Korean trade representatives met with his aide March 7 to inquire about membership procedures.

Although there has not yet been further contact, ESCAP will welcome the country if it applies for membership during the Seoul meeting, Kibria said.

PRC, ROK Officials Discuss Development

SK0204102491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0938 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—Chinese Vice Foreign Affairs Minister Liu Huaqiu on Tuesday recommended continued South- North Korean dialogue concerning Korea's entry into the United Nations.

Meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok in the afternoon, the Chinese official said Seoul-Beijing ties will develop "step-by-step" considering the recent opening of Seoul trade representative in Beijing and other economic developments.

The talks came during the 47th session of the Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) that opened here Monday for a 10-day run.

Liu, who is head of the Chinese delegation to ESCAP, is the highest ranking Chinese official to visit Seoul. South Korea and China do not yet have diplomatic ties.

Yi expressed full support for China's bid to host next year's ESCAP session, hoping that member nations will unanimously approve the proposal.

The Chinese official thanked South Korea's support and said he hopes to see Yi next year in Beijing, said Kim Chong-ki, director- general at Asian Affairs Bureau at the Foreign Ministry, after the closed-door meeting.

On Korea's U.N. membership, Yi explained Seoul's position and asked for China's understanding, according to Kim.

Liu responded by saying his government hopes for continued inter- Korean discussion on the issue.

On Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) membership of the so- called "three Chinas"—Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong—the two countries agreed to hold further talks on the appropriate formula between officials in charge between the two countries, Kim said.

The South Korean foreign minister also proposed a full review by Beijing officials on speedy establishment of a direct air route between the capitals of the two countries and other measures that will boost bilateral economic and civilian exchanges.

The review should also include resolving China's trade barriers against South Korean goods, such as the alleged discriminatory tariffs, Yi was quoted as suggesting to Liu.

The Chinese official said he is personally not well advised about direct air route but promised to talk with officials on trade matters after he returns to his country, Kim said.

The 50-minute encounter was attended by senior Foreign Ministry officials in charge of international organizations from both sides.

Yi also met with Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister, where they discussed South Korean ties with six-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

They discussed ways of strengthening ties between South Korea and ASEAN and widening the scope of dialogue, Kim said.

Thailand, ROK Officials Meet on Gulf Role

BK0304021991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Apr 91 p 21

[By Bunsong Kositchotethana]

[Text] Seoul—Thailand and South Korea will team up to cash in on business opportunities arising from the reconstruction of countries affected by the Persian Gulf war.

The issue was discussed here yesterday by Prime Minister's Office Minister M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi and South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok.

M.R. Kasemsamoson told Bangkok Post that Mr Yi had responded positively to the idea of the two countries working together on reconstruction projects in Middle Eastern countries.

Thailand will basically seek to supply a labour force for any construction projects South Korean firms might be able to secure in those countries, particularly Kuwait. Thailand also hopes to get subcontracts from Seoul.

There was some concern that countries which did not actively support the effort to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait might not be given full opportunity to tap business contracts arising from reconstruction, according to international analysts.

Aside from possessing a sharp, competitive edge in international trade, South Korea is a close ally of the US which led the allied forces in the Gulf war. Thailand maintained a low profile policy during the conflict.

M.R. Kasemsamoson conveyed a similar message to China's Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu, whom he met separately here yesterday.

The Thai and South Korean ministers also expressed their desire to expand trade between the two nations. The trade ministers of the two countries will meet in South Korea later this year for talks on the matter.

M.R. Kasemsamoson asked South Korea through Mr Yi to send the highest possible level of delegation to the International Monetary Fund meeting to be held in Bangkok as a gesture of support and trust in the Thai Government.

EC Commission Official Views Future Markets

SK0304070691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0628 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—Integration in 1992 will not create a fortress Europe, instead it will result in a big market with a hunger for products from developing countries, a senior official of the EC commission said Wednesday.

"The EC will offer firstly, preferential access to the community market for a wide variety of products from developing countries and secondly a large integrated market and a growing demand for these products," said Gilles Anouil, head EC delegate to the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific meeting in Seoul.

"The community considers its generalized system of preference as an essential part of its development strategy," Anouil said. "The 1991 scheme covers exports worth a total of 28 billion European currency units, a 13 percent increase from last year, representing a reduction in customs duties of over 1 billion ECUs.

"The EC grants duty-free admission to all industrial products originating in developing countries which do not already benefit from contractually agreed preferences."

The drive for the single market was "irreversible," he said. "The commission has submitted all of the 278 proposals necessary to bring it into being and nearly 70 percent of this legislation has already been passed."

He said the massive deregulation and liberalizing of the markets of the 12 EC-member countries would continue to boost growth in the community, which would eventually be a "dynamic export market.

"It is ironic that while in the beginning many were concerned that the 1992 initiative would lead to the community closing in on itself, there is now an increasing belief in many quarters within the community that the single market will bring benefits principally to third countries."

Anouil made three proposals for the mutual benefit of the European Community and countries that want to trade with it.

"Firstly, it is up to third countries themselves to take advantage of the increased prosperity and purchasing power within the community: to inform themselves on the market opportunities for their products, on the now simplified norms and standards and to be actively present in the market itself. Preparation in certain adaptation is necessary.

"Secondly, that it will be increasingly difficult to maintain an open community ourselves if our trading partners do not themselves break down the many barriers and obstacles which still hinder free trade.

"And finally, closely related to the above point, a vital need for further trade liberalization in a multilateral framework to underpin worldwide economic growth. In other words, the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round."

In relation to the Uruguay Round negotiations, he said the EC was particularly "disappointed" at the breakdown of discussions in Brussels last December.

"The recent resumption of neotiations is a most welcome sign... The community needless to say is totally committed to ensuring the success of these complex but crucial negotiations," he said.

The European Community continued to seek a comprehensive package covering all sectors to achieve a balance of advantages and concessions for all trading partners, he said.

For developing countries, EC proposals offered a genuine improvement in access to the community market in such areas as industrial and tropical products, Anouil said.

"For the latter the proposed reductions of up to 50 percent in duties on processed products and the elimination of most national quantitative restrictions would bring real benefit to developing countries," he said.

Japan

Kaifu To Discuss Role During U.S. Tour

OW0304060791 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Kaifu revealed a plan for his U.S. visit, beginning tonight, speaking at today's session of the House of Councilors Budget Committee. Kaifu stressed that in order to ease U.S. criticism of Japan's stance during the Gulf war, he would like to discuss frankly how Japan should contribute to global peace and stability in the future.

In connection with Kaifu's U.S. visit, Kojin Katagami of Komeito noted at the Budget Committee meeting that there is a view in the United States critical of Japan for offering no visible contributions, and that, on the other hand, the Japanese people are reacting strongly against such U.S. criticism. Katagami then questioned how the prime minister would cope with the emotional gap between the two countries.

In reply, Kaifu said that he knew some people in the United States highly rated Japan's $9-billion contribution to the multinational forces. However, he also noted that others in the nation had criticized Japan, saying its contributions to the international community were too little, too late.

Kaifu then referred to a report that some members of the U.S. Congress tried to prepare sanctions against Japan if Japan did not pay the money for the Gulf contribution within deadlines set by the U.S. side. Kaifu stated that taking into account those moves in the United States, he would like to frankly discuss with President Bush how Japan should play an active part in the international community in the future to maintain peace and stability. He concluded that he would exert himself to avoid a crisis in Japanese-U.S. relations.

Not To Raise Rice Issue

OW0304130091 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] At today's session of the Budget Committee of House of Councilors, Prime Minister Kaifu stated: If the question of the opening of the rice market should arise in connection with the GATT's Uruguay Round during the summit with the United States scheduled for 6 April, Japan with deal with it on the basis of the principle of Japan's need to have full self-sufficiency in rice.

During today's session, Akio Hosoya of the opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan asked the prime minister if the opening of the rice market will be discussed during the Japan-United States summit, set for tomorrow morning Japan time.

In his answer, Prime Minister Kaifu said: Because the issue should be discussed at the Uruguay Round, I will not raise the issue myself. If the question comes up at the summit in the course of discussing various Uruguay Round issues, I will candidly explain my view, which is based on the principle of the need for Japan to have full self-sufficiency in rice.

Prime Minister Kaifu Leaves for Talks With Bush

OW0304125891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu left here Wednesday night for the United States to meet U.S. President George Bush.

Kaifu and Bush will meet in Newport Beach, California, on Thursday and will hold a joint news conference after their meeting, Japanese officials said.

Kaifu is expected to tell Bush that Japan is determined to do its utmost for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multinational trade talks, the officials said.

Kaifu will also seek U.S. support for Japan's efforts to regain the four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido.

As for the security and reconstruction of the Middle East in the wake of the Persian Gulf war, Kaifu will state that Japan will intensify exchanges with Israel and Iran and contribute to tightening control of conventional weapons exports, they said.

Kaifu will also urge Bush to visit Japan before the summit meeting of seven major industrial nations set for July in London.

Kaifu is scheduled to return home on Saturday.

'Subtle Shift' Seen in Kaifu's Rice Stand

OW0304112191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, mindful of the mounting frustration in Washington over Japan's heavily protected rice market, will stress Japan's efforts to solve the rice issue at the upcoming summit meeting with U.S. President George Bush, government sources said Wednesday.

The sources said Kaifu will promise stepped-up efforts on the rice problem in order to bring the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks to a successful conclusion by the end of the year.

The Kaifu-Bush meeting is scheduled to take place in Newport Beach, California, on Thursday.

This represents a subtle shift from his earlier stance on banning rice imports. In the previous two Japan-U.S. summit meetings, Kaifu simply said that the issue should be raised at global trade talks, not in bilateral negotiations.

The four-year talks, sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), have been in limbo since they broke down at the ministerial meeting in early December due to deep discord between the United States and the European Community (EC) over trade-distorting farm subsidies.

With the Persian Gulf war now in the background, Washington is being increasingly preoccupied with trade disputes with Japan. The rice issue tops the list of Japan-U.S. trade frictions.

While the Japanese Farm Ministry is firmly opposed to any opening of the rice market out of fear that this might disillusion farmers ahead of the local elections, top-ranking officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have been softening their stances on the issue to prevent it from further hurting the country's crucial ties with the U.S.

During his visit to the U.S. in late March, Ichiro Ozawa, the party's secretary general, told reporters that Japan must put international cooperation ahead of its own interests.

"The problem is how to harmonize our principles and international coordination," he said.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has also indicated the need for limited liberalization of rice imports.

Speaking at a press conference in Sapporo, northern Japan, on Monday, Miyazawa said it is inevitable that Japan buy a limited amount of foreign rice to facilitate success of the Uruguay Round.

Nikkeiren Chief Urges Decision on Rice Imports

OW0304092791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Eiji Suzuki, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), urged the government Wednesday to make a political decision to ease controls on rice imports.

Suzuki told a news conference that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu should make such a decision during his meeting with U.S. President George Bush Friday.

The Nikkeiren leader said Japan would not be able to enlist support for its rice policy during the London summit of seven Western democracies in July if it insists on its present policy of totally banning rice imports.

Noting a growing argument that Japan should partially open its rice market, Suzuki proposed a partial opening of the rice market, allowing five to seven percent of Japan's total rice consumption initially with the measure to be reviewed about 10 years later.

He advised Kaifu to make clear his attitude toward pending major issues, chiding him for failing to take prompt action on Japan's contribution to the Persian Gulf war.

Suzuki also criticized the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in connection with the display of rice samples by U.S. growers at a recent food show. The U.S. was asked to remove the display.

He said he would not respond to a request by the ministry for dialogue on administrative reforms unless it changes its attitude on the rice issue.

Suzuki is chairman of the government-appointed Council for Administrative Reforms.

Businessmen Call for Partial Rice Liberalization

OW0304084791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Japanese business leaders asked Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Motoji Kondo Wednesday to partially open Japan's rice market to break a deadlock in the multilateral trade talks held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The request was made at a meeting between Kondo and a panel on farm policy of the Federation of Economic Organization (Keidanren). The panel is headed by Jiro Kawake, also chairman of Oji Paper Co.

Toshikuni Yahiro, vice chairman of the federation and chairman of Mitsui and Co., said the GATT talks must be brought to a successful conclusion by the end of the year and urged that "a political decision be taken if needed."

The agriculture minister, however, implied that he will not change the current policy of totally banning rice imports.

"We know the importance of the new round of talks, but the rice issue is a very difficult one. At the moment we are only negotiating the technical problems. We haven't started real discussions. In a situation like this, we can't respond to such requests."

Akio Morita, another vice chairman of the federation and chairman of Sony Corp., criticized the Japanese Government's pressure last month to remove the U.S. rice displays at the trade show in Chiba.

"Since the Gulf war, U.S. emotions toward Japan have worsened. There are some people who think Japan should have kept its mouth shut and left the rice displays alone," he said.

The minister lashed back by pointing out the other countries that had responded to the government's request for withholding rice displays. "We could not have pretended not to see what we did see," he said.

At the meeting, the business leaders also asked the government to revise Japan's Food Control Law, which bans rice imports.

Meanwhile, Minister of International Trade and Industry Eichi Nakao, speaking at the budget committee of the House of Councillors, implied he is taking a more flexible attitude toward the rice issue.

Although he avoided talking directly about rice, he urged Japan to willingly take the initiative at the multilateral trade talks of the Uruguay Round to ensure their success.

"To take the initiative on an international level is the way for Japan to contribute to the world," he said.

The minister stressed the importance of not worsening the trade frictions between Japan and the United States.

He said that if the U.S. cited Japan as an unfair trader and imposed retaliatory tariffs on its exports under the Super 301 Clause of the 1988 Trade Act, it would deal Japan a fatal blow as it depends heavily on trade.

"It is vital for Japan to keep cooperating with the U.S.," he said.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who is to head for the U.S. on Wednesday night, said that on his visit he aims to disperse the anti-Japanese emotions that have surfaced in the U.S. since the Persian Gulf war.

"I would like to have frank discussions on Japan's role in the world. I must try to prevent Japan-U.S. relationship from getting critical," he said.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Arrives in Tokyo

OW0204091791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0907 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, leading a trade mission consisting of senior executives of 19 U.S. firms, arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday afternoon for a four- day visit.

Mosbacher is slated to meet his Japanese counterpart, Eiichi Nakao, and Japanese business leaders to ask the Japanese to buy more American products.

Earlier in Washington, Mosbacher told a press conference that his trip would help to answer Japanese complaints that "U.S. companies are not interested in the long haul, they're not willing to hang in there and continue to push their wares."

Meets With MITI Minister

OW0304060191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0543 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Visiting U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher called on Japan to take definite steps to stem imports of tortoise shell which, he said, is threatening the survival of the hawksbill turtle species, Japanese officials said Wednesday.

Mosbacher told International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao that Japan's imports of hawksbill turtle shells, if continued, will further jeopardize the existence of the endangered species, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) officials said.

Pointing out the surging global trend toward environmental protection, Mosbacher pressed Nakao to take steps to protect the turtles.

Nakao in reply cited the plight of Japanese tortoise shell product makers if imports are banned or drastically curtailed, and made no specific commitment on the issue, the officials said.

Japan's imports of sea turtle shells became a bilateral issue when Washington late last month cited Japan as a country engaged in unlawful trade in endangered species. Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan and Commerce Secretary Mosbacher determined March 20 that Japan's commercial trading in endangered sea turtles violated the Pelly Amendment of the Fishermen's Protection Act of 1967.

U.S. officials have maintained Japan's continued import of the shells contravenes the spirit of the convention on the international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora.

According to U.S. Interior Department statistics, Japan bought 234,000 hawksbill turtle shells from more than 20 countries between 1981 and 1989.

Nakao told Mosbacher that he regretted Washington's "singling out" of Japan under the U.S. law.

Mosbacher is here on a five-day trip leading a trade mission that includes senior executives of 14 U.S. firms that have made long-term commitments to the efforts to market their products in Japan.

Mosbacher also said the U.S. auto industry is suffering from "oversupply," adding he wanted to make known to the Japanese the serious business climate that faces American automakers.

After the meeting, Nakao and Mosbacher attended a conference between the American executives and MITI officials over the new Commerce Department program to boost U.S. exports to Japan.

Nakao stressed that Japan's imports are growing steadily, and that provides great business chances to U.S. companies.

Mosbacher said the U.S. firms, chosen from 120 who asked to go to Japan, have made strong long-term commitment to making inroads to the Japanese market, and called for MITI's cooperation for the success of the program.

The companies on the five-day trip have pledged that in the next five years they will make at least four visits to Japan a year, including at least two by their chief executives.

Meets LDP Leaders, Others

OW0304141091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1351 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher urged Japan on Wednesday to open its rice market, saying the country's recent refusal to allow a display of U.S. rice at a trade show was an unfortunate incident.

Mosbacher said in an interview that, while insufficient Japanese public relations efforts contributed to the flap over the incident, a more important factor was Japan's insistence at the Uruguay Round of global trade talks on keeping its rice market closed.

He was referring to a case in which a U.S. trade group was forced to remove American rice samples from an international food fair in Chiba after the food agency said the display violated a law prohibiting rice imports for commercial purposes.

Mosbacher said he hopes Japan will relax its ban on rice imports at "an appropriate date."

He arrived here Tuesday, heading a trade mission composed of U.S. corporate executives willing to make a long-term commitment to penetrating the Japanese market.

On other bilateral issues, he said Japan-U.S. trade relations are improving step-by-step at a steady tempo, but said Washington needs to continue pressing Japan to remove nontariff barriers to imports from the United States.

Mosbacher denied reports that he had asked Japan to hold down auto exports to the United States, saying he had only noted that the U.S. automotive industry faces a difficult time.

He thanked Japan for its financial contribution to the U.S.-led forces that drove Iraq out of Kuwait, noting that the Tokyo government has paid most of the 9 billion dollars it pledged.

Japan pledged the contribution in January, but the weakening of the yen since then meant that the amount actually paid to Washington fell 400 million dollars short of the promised figure in dollar terms, prompting some U.S. officials to demand Japan make up the difference.

Mosbacher spent Wednesday, the second day of his visit, in a series of meetings with Japanese Government and business leaders. He urged the Japanese to buy more American goods and remove nontariff barriers to imports so as to cut the huge U.S. trade deficit with Japan, officials said.

In talks with Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and other Keidanren leaders, Mosbacher asked Japan to step up its efforts to import more American products, according to Keidanren officials.

Mosbacher warned that the U.S. Congress and industry may line up against Japan if the trade imbalance remains unsolved.

The commerce secretary and members of his trade mission also met ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leaders, and asked for their cooperation in helping the U.S. companies involved in the mission to do business in Japan, LDP officials said.

Mosbacher was quoted as saying the companies were chosen for the mission because they are capable of being competitive in the Japanese market, adding that he wants to wipe out the notion held by many Americans that Japan's market is closed to foreign companies.

Some U.S. trade mission members reportedly asked the ruling party officials to improve U.S. access to Japan's construction market, touching on bid-rigging among contractors, known locally as "dango," and close links between the LDP and construction companies.

Michio Watanabe, former head of the LDP's policy-making panel, told the U.S. delegation that the trade imbalance should be resolved from a global viewpoint, not from a bilateral viewpoint.

Toshio Yamaguchi, another senior LDP official who took part in the meeting, said that U.S. companies, for their part, must make efforts to gather information about construction projects in Japan before bidding for them.

Mosbacher is slated to meet other government officials Thursday before leaving Friday for Seoul, where he will hold trade discussions with South Korean Government officials.

Negotiations Held in U.S. on Semiconductor Market

OW0304050691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0233 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Washington, April 2 KYODO—Japan and the United States failed Tuesday to narrow their differences over a U.S. claim to 20 percent of the Japanese semiconductor market.

But in a bid to break the deadlock over the chip dispute, Japan expressed readiness to conclude a new agreement to replace the 1986 pact, which is to expire on July 31.

Japanese and U.S. negotiators speculated that President George Bush will raise the chip dispute in a meeting with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Newport Beach, California on Thursday.

U.S. trade negotiators stressed that Japan should grant a 20 percent share for foreign semiconductor makers in the Japanese market, as allegedly provided for in a controversial side letter to the 1986 agreement. Japan denies such a pledge was made.

The U.S., acting on domestic industry requests, expects the 20 percent target to be reached by the end of 1992 and wants to mention the figure in any new semiconductor agreement.

A senior Japanese official said Japan is receptive to the idea of a new semiconductor agreement which would feature greater cooperation between Japanese and U.S. companies.

Among notable joint ventures are Toshiba-Motorola and Hitachi- Texas Instruments schemes.

During the day long meeting, however, Japan reiterated its opposition to concluding a new chip pact so long as 165 million U.S. dollars worth of sanctions remain in place under the current pact.

The U.S. slapped 300 million dollars in sanctions on Japan for its alleged noncompliance with market access and third-country antidumping obligations. It lifted 135 million dollars worth of the sanctions in November 1987 after concluding that Japan had ceased third-country dumping.

"We called for an early end to the remaining sanctions" during the subcabinet-level meeting, the senior Japanese official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The U.S. still harbors the misunderstandings about a guarantee of a market share," he added.

U.S. trade negotiators were not immediately reachable for comment.

In the last quarter of 1990 for which the latest Japanese data is available, the foreign share in the Japanese chip market stood at 19.0 percent. The U.S. puts the share at 13.2 percent.

The two countries made progress on a mechanism to deter third- country dumping and a unified method to measure the degree of foreign access to the Japanese market to be concluded in a new chip agreement.

Naomichi Suzuki, vice minister for international affairs of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, led the Japanese delegation to the meeting. Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Linn Williams was the chief U.S. delegate.

Vice Foreign Minister on USSR Stand on Islands

OW0304142391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1409 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Japan will respond positively on economic cooperation to the Soviet Union if President Mikhail Gorbachev shows a clear intention to solve the bilateral territorial dispute, Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama said Wednesday.

"If it becomes clear that the Soviets are not losing enthusiasm for solving the territorial issue, a new prospect in the economic cooperation field will naturally emerge," Kuriyama said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

The Soviets seized the four northern islands off Hokkaido—Shikotan, Kunashiri, Etorofu, and the Habomais—in the closing days of World War II.

Kuriyama's statement indicates that Japan will flexibly apply its policy of improving bilateral relations while maintaining its principle of not separating politics from economic matters, and may decide to cooperate economically if any advance is made on the territorial issue.

Kuriyama said Japanese economic cooperation would depend on a decision by Gorbachev on the territorial issue during his April 16-19 visit, but he also said that the notion of economic cooperation was not "in compensation for the territories."

He said arguments about whether economic cooperation should come before or after a solution to the territorial issue are fruitless.

"The important thing is that we want to do them together," he said.

On the territorial issue, Kuriyama said "the time is ripe" for Moscow to make a political decision. However, asked what kind of decision Gorbachev is likely to make, he said he believed the president is still considering it.

USSR To Sign Trade, Payments Accord

OW0304072391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0712 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Japan and the Soviet Union will sign a new trade and payments agreement during Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Tokyo later this month, government officials said Wednesday.

The officials said the two countries will also agree on a plan for Japan to hold a sample fair in Moscow April 8-17 next year.

The new trade agreement calls for expansion of bilateral trade and development of human resources involved in trade, the officials said.

Disputes arising from trade will be settled through arbitration organizations in third countries, including Switzerland, they said.

The new pact will replace one signed in 1986, which expired at the end of last year. It will take effect retroactive to January 1 this year, the officials said.

They said the Japanese Government will provide about 300 million yen to help put on the sample fair in Moscow, which will also introduce Japanese culture and lifestyles to the Soviet people.

USSR Trade Office Reveals Cooperation Plan

OW3003105991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The Soviet Union may seek a total of 9.3 billion dollars in Japanese assistance for 20 development projects during a visit to Tokyo by President Mikhail Gorbachev on April 16-19, according to a prepared plan disclosed by the Soviet Trade Representative Office Saturday.

The plan incorporates a host of Russo-Japanese industrial cooperation, ranging from development of natural resources to construction of industrial facilities.

According to the prepared plan, five projects are to be completed within five years at a total cost of 1.3 billion dollars, another 12 projects within 10 years at 3.5 billion dollars, and the remaining three in the 21st century at 4.5 billion dollars.

The first phase of the plan places emphasis on development of chemical, petrochemical, and heavy industries around Moscow and the second calls for construction of rubber, automobile and consumer products manufacturing facilities, and development of natural resources.

Japanese firms selected as partners include Mitsui and Co., Marubeni Corp., Nissho-Iwai Corp., and Kobe Steel Ltd.

The Soviet plan, however, removes major pending projects, including an important section of an oil and gas resources development program in Sakhalin and a natural gas development project in Yakut which is said to be a key part of the overall Siberia development program. Reasons for the removal are not known immediately, Japanese industry sources said.

The Soviet Union previously gave high priority to these projects.

Japanese trading officials said the Soviet plan covers both new and old projects, and requires careful study.

Labor Assistance to Soviet Union Planned

OW0104090491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0812 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Japan plans to provide assistance to the Soviet Union in the field of labor to help it develop a labor system suitable to a market-oriented economy, officials at the Labor Ministry said Monday.

The officials said the government has reached a basic agreement with the Soviet Union on the mutual dispatch of labor missions, exchanges of engineers and researchers, reception of trainees, and other cooperative projects.

The details of the assistance will be worked out before the upcoming visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Japan April 16-19, they said.

The planned Japanese mission, to be jointly sent by the ministry, the Japan Federation of Employers' Association, and the Japan Private Sector Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), is designed to exchange views about employment systems, labor policies, and labor markets.

The Soviets are particularly interested in Japan's experience in the privatization of its former state-run companies, which they see as useful to its own potential sales of state corporations.

The government is also considering training Soviet engineers in Japanese companies, something eagerly sought by Hokkaido and other local governments on Japan Sea coasts.

Nakayama, UK's Hurd To Meet in Beijing

OW0304113991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will meet with his British counterpart Douglas Hurd in Beijing on Friday to discuss the post-Gulf war situation in the Middle East, policies toward the Soviet Union, and other international affairs, a Foreign Ministry source said Wednesday.

Nakayama will visit China from Friday to Sunday for talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen, while the British foreign secretary will pay a five-day visit to Beijing from Wednesday to discuss with Chinese leaders problems related to the 1997 return of Hong Kong to China.

Nakayama and Hurd will be the first foreign ministers from the Group of Seven most industrialized nations to visit Beijing after the military crackdown on democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

Philippine Defense Secretary Arrives in Tokyo

OW0204122391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1210 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Philippine Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday on a six-day visit to Japan to meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Ramos, one of the most favored contenders in the 1992 race for the Philippine presidency, was invited by former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe, who leads the LDP's fourth largest faction.

Ramos will give a speech Wednesday at a meeting of Watanabe faction members.

He will also meet Defense Agency Director General Yukihiko Ikeda on Thursday and hold a press conference Friday.

Calls for Security System

OW0304054391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0526 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Philippine Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos suggested to members of Japan's governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Wednesday that Asia establish a regional security system.

The Persian Gulf war has disproved the view that Asia has no need for a security system, Ramos was quoted telling a study group headed by Michio Watanabe, leader of an LDP faction. The meeting was closed to reporters.

Ramos, in Tokyo since Tuesday on a six-day visit to Japan, met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in the early afternoon.

Ramos told the LDP group that he would like to see the six-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) play a central role in guaranteeing regional security, according to a faction spokesman.

ASEAN consists of Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei.

Ramos acknowledged a role for four major powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and Japan—in the proposed security system, but did not go into detail.

Turning to negotiations on extending a U.S. lease on military bases in the Philippines, Ramos said the final agreement would mean a sharply decreased presence for the U.S. military in his country, according to the spokesman.

The negotiations, expected to be wrapped up in talks to be held in Manila in several days, are likely to lead to the removal of U.S. fighter planes, including those based on the Seventh Fleet, Ramos was quoted saying.

He said the agreement, which is likely to allow U.S. Forces to stay for seven more years, would leave the functions of the air transport terminal facilities at the Clark Air Base intact so that the U.S. military can respond to security changes throughout the world.

The U.S. is reportedly expected to agree to annual payments of 700 million to 1 billion dollars for the continued use of the military facilities in the Philippines.

The spokesman said Ramos invited Japan and other countries to help transform Subic Naval Base and other military facilities rented to the U.S. into commercial facilities.

Ramos, who has declared his intention to run for president in May 1992 elections, is here at the invitation of Watanabe to discuss the impact of the Gulf war.

He also is scheduled to meet with senior LDP leaders, Director General of the Defense Agency Yukihiko Ikeda, and business leaders during his stay until Sunday.

Meeting later with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Ramos thanked Japan for the economic assistance it has given his country, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Japan, the largest aid donor to the Philippines, recently committed 1.3 billion dollars in grants out of a total 3.5 billion dollars raised at a multilateral pledging session last month.

Officials quoted Ramos as saying that now that the government has assumed control over the political situation in the country, which had been rocked by several military mutinies, it is now putting more energy into tackling economic troubles.

Nakayama pledged that Japan will continue to keep the Philippines as a priority target of its aid program, noting that its development enhances the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

Asked by Nakayama about the Philippines' relations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ramos replied that they were good, officials said.

He noted that the Philippines received 916 million dollars in fresh funds from the financial body last month after pledging to implement an economic stabilization program agreed upon in February.

Officials said Nakayama noted the impending visit to Tokyo of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is scheduled to come here on April 16-19.

He called for the Philippines to support Japan's claims to four northern islands occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union in the aftermath of World War II.

While Ramos did not commit to supporting Japan's claims, he expressed a desire to see the territorial dispute settled amicably, officials said.

Official Says UNSC Membership 'Unlikley'

OW0304135291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—It is unlikely that Japan could become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, if it thought of trying to, unless a national concensus on the issue of its personnel contribution to settlements of international disputes can be reached, a top Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official said a country that becomes a permanent member of the council must bear responsibility for peace and the maintenance of world order, and that if it was not ready to take such a responsibility it would never be likely to become a member.

The official was speaking of U.N. affairs in the context of a clause in the U.N. Charter describing Japan, along with its World War II ally Germany, as "enemy" nations.

Japan is currently working through diplomatic channels to enlist support for the removal of the clause.

In describing Japan's potential within the U.N., the official said it is not enough to extend only money as a contribution to international situations.

He was referring specifically to the Persian Gulf crisis, during which Japan failed to reach a concensus over measures for a contribution of personnel.

Only when domestic consensus and a system for determining such personnel contributions can be reached would Japan be able to seek permanent membership of the U.N. Security Council, he said.

Diet Approves 5.4 Trillion Yen Provisional Budget

OW2803074191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0626 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—The Diet on Thursday approved a 5,421.8 billion yen provisional budget covering spending for the first 13 days of the new fiscal year starting April 1.

The House of Councillors passed the bill at a plenary session with endorsements from members of the Liberal Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party, Komeito, Rengo Sangiin, and Democratic Socialist Party. Japanese Communist Party members voted against it.

The powerful House of Representatives approved the stopgap budget Wednesday.

The full fiscal 1991 budget, totaling 70,347.4 billion yen, is still under deliberation in the upper chamber and is expected to go into effect April 11.

Bank of Japan To Monitor Tight Monetary Stance

OW2703042491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0358 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday the central bank will continue to monitor the effects of its tight monetary policy as the Japanese economy is unlikely to suffer a sharp setback because it is supported by firm capital investments.

Mieno, speaking before the House of Representatives' Budget Committee, expressed concern about domestic inflationary pressures triggered by higher labor and distribution costs and combined with the yen's weakness against the U.S. dollar.

Acknowledging the slower growth of the Japanese economy, Mieno said controlling "too rapid a growth" will help maintain and extend the long period of economic growth.

In respect of speculation that the BOJ is considering a cut in the official discount rate, currently standing at 6.0 percent, around late April, Mieno said he "cannot say beforehand when and what" he will do about the rate.

Bank of Japan Managers Say Economy Slowing

OW0204121291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—The Bank of Japan's (BOJ) branch managers said Tuesday there is little chance of an economic downturn, although the pace of economic growth is slowing, a central bank official said.

A majority of branch managers believe the economy is slowing, but no possibility is felt that it is going to run down a steep hill, said Akira Nanbara, BOJ Osaka branch manager.

Briefing reporters on the first day of the closed meeting of the BOJ managers, Nanbara said many saw no danger of a slump in business investment.

Such meetings are held every quarter to exchange views on the domestic economy. This gathering is being held amid speculation the BOJ may lower its official discount rate soon in response to growing signs of an economic slowdown.

Nanbara said a dominant view was that Japanese companies remain bullish on capital spending plans and a number of companies are revising their plans upward now the Persian Gulf war is over.

Trends of corporate capital spending, one of the two pillars of current economic growth, are considered vital to continuing that growth.

On consumer spending, the other dynamo of the current expansion, many branch managers voiced optimism and dismissed any possibility of such spending dwindling, Nanbara said.

But he quoted some branch managers as saying the sales of cars and other high-priced goods are not so strong.

Osaka Chamber of Commerce To Allow Foreigners

OW2903090391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0736 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Osaka, March 29 KYODO—The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry announced Friday it will allow foreign companies and business people to join under its fiscal 1991 action plan.

Chamber officials said foreign firms and individuals will be accepted as regular members of the chamber with voting rights.

Thirty-six foreign companies and individuals, now treated as observer members, will be granted full membership on April 1, the first day of the new fiscal year.

Similar measures have been taken by Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Sapporo, Yokohama, and Kitakyushu. Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry officials said they are reviewing the issue of foreign membership.

The Osaka chamber officials said its 1991 program also includes sending economic missions to Vietnam and Indonesia and accepting foreign trainees for study in Japan.

The chamber also will hold a competition for robots developed jointly by enterprises and students, and a seminar for businesses in communities along the inland sea.

Labor Ministry Releases Wage Survey Report

OW0204085891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Monthly salaries for Japanese wage earners in February averaged 261,287 yen, up 5.7 percent from a year ago, according to a Labor Ministry report released Tuesday.

They also received an average year-end bonus of 584,259 yen last December, up 4.9 percent from the year before.

Ministry officials attributed the increases mainly to Japan's business boom since late 1987.

The wage survey covered about 22.9 million salary earners in mining, construction, manufacturing, power and gas, transportation and communications, commerce, finance, real estate, and services.

The report said working time averaged 169.9 hours in February, down 0.5 percent from February 1990.

Wage Hikes of 4 Key Industries Around 5%

OW0304050791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0333 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Major companies in Japan's steel, electric, automobile and shipbuilding-engineering industries offered wages hikes of around 5 percent to their unions on Wednesday, the peak of annual wage negotiations, union officials said.

Trade unions are set to accept the offers, which are expected to average about 5.6 percent for all industries, down from 5.94 percent agreed to in last year's pay negotiations.

The smaller increases won by the unions affiliated with the Japan Council of Metal Workers' unions reflect a slowing of Japan's current economic boom, which has continued since late 1987, analysts in industrial relations said. The position of the four heavy industry union groups traditionally sets the pace of annual wage negotiations in the so-called "spring offensive."

Trade unions had demanded pay hikes of 8-9 percent but management balked because of the current economic downturn and uncertain business prospects in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war.

Thirty-five steel companies offered raises averaging 11,500 yen or 4.33 percent, to their unions, which is 0.37 percentage point or 500 yen lower than last year.

Seventeen major electrical appliance firms gave an average of 13,237 yen, 5.55 percent, hikes to their labor unions, down 0.38 percentage point from the 5.93 percent given last year.

At Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., the largest electrical appliances manufacturer in Japan, the proposed pay raise was 5.55 percent, or 14,002 yen on average.

Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's largest automobile firm, offered wage hikes of 15,000 yen or 5.52 percent to its union, compared with 15,300 yen or 5.93 percent last year.

The raise offered by Nissan Motor Co. averaged 14,600 yen, up 5.54 percent, and Honda Motor Co.'s raise was 14,700 yen, up 5.65 percent.

In another key issue in the current spring wage offensive, executives and union leaders at the steel industry agreed to trim annual working hours to between 1,800 and 1,900 from about 2,000.

Steel firms also offered an additional two or three holidays to their unions this year.

In the electrical appliance industry, managements and unions agreed to set up a committee to discuss ways to shorten working hours.

Nine electric power companies and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) were expected to offer annual wage hikes to their unions later in the day.

Private railway companies and unions will try to settle wage negotiations late next Monday through early next Tuesday. The unions are threatening a strike Tuesday if they do not get a satisfactory agreement.

Analysts said this year's wage hikes of nine power industries appear to average around 5.6 percent, compared with an average of 5.94 percent recorded last year.

Toyota To Give Workers 5.52% Wage Hike

OW3003125691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Nagoya, March 30 KYODO—Workers at Japan's top automaker—Toyota Motor Corp.—are likely to win a pay hike of 5.52 percent, or 15,000 yen a month on the average, labor sources said Saturday.

Toyota's management is scheduled to make a formal offer Wednesday.

Toyota often sets the pace for wage negotiations at not only other automakers, such as Nissan Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co., but also other industries.

The sources said Nissan employees will get a raise 300-400 yen a month lower than Toyota's, while the raise at Honda will be 200-300 yen lower.

The sources said Toyota's management tried to set the wage hike at 5.49 percent, or 14,900 yen, but decided to back down because workers in the electric industry are expected to gain a 5.5 percent increase.

MITI To Help Workers Hit by Turtle Shell Ban

OW2803132691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1220 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will provide assistance to tortoiseshell craftsmen to help them change jobs in view of a possible ban on imports of sea turtle shells, MITI sources said Thursday.

About 1,400 artisans in tortoiseshell handicraft works nationwide now face the threat of losing their jobs as the Japanese Government is considering a complete ban on imports of hawksbill turtles amid growing criticism from the U.S. that Japan is illegally importing endangered species.

Government sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE earlier in the day that the government has begun considering such a ban.

MITI's assistance measures, expected to be provided in cooperation with the Labor Ministry and local governments at the production centers, will consist of low-rate loans, tax incentives, and consultation to help workers find new jobs, the sources said.

Most of the assistance will come from the small and medium enterprise agency's outlay for helping hard-pressed small-sized enterprises to change their line of business, but some new measures will be considered jointly with the local governments concerned.

The major production centers of tortoiseshell works are in Nagasaki Prefecture, Tokyo, and Osaka.

The total annual sales of some 160 firms belonging to the nationwide tortoiseshell makers' union is about 17 billion yen.

The recent U.S. call for a ban on imports of the turtle has already caused a stir among union members, MITI sources said.

Tokyo has apparently moved toward such a ban as Washington made a chilly response in recent bilateral talks over the issue to Japan's proposal to reduce its annual imports of turtle shells to 5 tons from the current 20 tons.

Ministry To Revise Forest Product Standards

OW2803150791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1314 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries decided Thursday to revise forest product standards as part of its efforts to boost imports, ministry officials said.

The decision came at a meeting of ministry advisory panel members in line with a Japan-U.S. agreement reached last June to relax restrictions on imports of wood products, they said.

The revision of forest product standards set under the Japan Agricultural Standards (JAS) will make product specifications and tariffs suitable for imports of forest products, according to the officials.

For instance, some foreign methods for wooden product specifications will be introduced in accordance with U.S. requests, they noted.

"With this revision, some 80 percent of the U.S. requests have been completed. We'll consider the remainder in a positive light," one official said.

After months of intense trade talks, Tokyo agreed last June to remove barriers to imports of wood products.

Ministry To List Railways on Stock Exchanges

OW3003133391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1125 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The Transport Ministry plans to list the shares of three major Japan Railways (JR) companies on stock exchanges, one company per year over a three-year period from fiscal 1991 which begins Monday, ministry officials said Saturday.

The three companies are the East Japan, Central Japan, and West Japan Railways.

The ministry officials said it has yet to be decided which one will be listed first, but market sources said East Japan is likely to be chosen.

The three companies have decided to pay a 10 percent dividend to investors for the business year ending this month, making them eligible to list their shares on the market.

East Japan, Central Japan, and West Japan plan to sell four million, 2.24 million, and two million shares, respectively, with earnings from the sale earmarked for repayment of long-term debts held by their defunct state-run parent company, the Japanese National Railways.

The officials said a maximum of two million shares of a single JR company will be offered for sale in the initial year to avoid disruption of the market.

The market sources said listing of the Central Japan stock would be premature because the company plans to purchase four superexpress Shinkansen lines in October, which will be a heavy financial burden.

They said West Japan will be able to meet the requirements for the listing of its stock in fiscal 1992 or later.

North Korea

Papers Denounce South Drive for UN Membership

SK0204051791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 2 Apr 91

["Papers Flail South Korean Authorities' 'Unilateral U.N. Membership' Campaign"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today urge the No Tae-u group to look straight at the trend of the times and give up its criminal drive for U.N. membership at once.

South Korea's puppet foreign minister told a "social gathering at the National Assembly" March 30 that South Korea would promote "simultaneous entry" into the United Nations and, in case there were no "response" from the North, would take concrete measures for "unilateral entry into the U.N." this year.

This eloquently shows that the No Tae-u ruling group is persistently and viciously trying to perpetuate the division of the country by means of "U.N. membership," stresses NODONG SINMUN.

The news analyst says:

It is crystal-clear that the South Korean authorities' criminal campaign for U.N. membership will legitimate and perpetuate the division of Korea, carry the inter-Korean relations to the worst proportions, render confrontation acute and lay a new grave obstacle in the way of national reunification.

Their persistent efforts for unilateral U.N. membership are an open declaration of division against the nation's desire for reunification and a never-to-be-condoned criminal act.

The No Tae-u ruling group must clearly know that if it joined the United Nations unilaterally despite the unanimous oppositimn of the nation, it would have to bear full responsibility for all consequences arising therefrom. It would be irrevocably branded as traitors like the "five traitors of 1905" and face a severe judgement by the nation.

A MINJU CHOSON news analyst warns that if the No Tae-u group persistently took the road of "unilateral U.N. membership" despite the protests of the nation and our warning, it would be denounced and rejected by the people as the enemy of reunification and separatist.

U.S., South Exercises Against North Detailed

SK2803052391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce Command on March 26 staged an aerial military exercise against the North in the skies above

Chongju, Yoju and Oeyon Islet as part of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, according to military sources.

Mobilized in this exercise were formations of F-16 fighter-bombers based in the Pacific and some 120 fighter bombers and observation planes belonging to the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists sent a formation of Guam-based KC-135 refuelling tankers to the sky above Kwangju for an actual war exercise of refuelling scores of transport helicopters and special operation planes including F-16 fighter-bombers.

They sent such high-altitude strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes as U-2 and RC-12 to the sky above the Military Demarcation Line to commit an aerial espionage on targets in the depth and in frontline area of our side.

The South Korean rulers massively hurled infantry and motorized units into Tongduchon area and staged a frantic ground offensive operation under the support of F-16 and OA-10 planes.

A total of 570 military planes of different types were mobilized in the military exercises in the sky above South Korea on March 26 alone.

Team Spirit, Arms Build-Up in South Viewed

SK0204053891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 2 Apr 91

["Brazen Sophism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—The chief of the U.S. Centre for Strategic and International Studies said at a "social gathering" some time ago that all troops must be kept in a "defensive" posture at their positions on the Korean peninsula, because, unlike in the Gulf it is difficult to find time to be prepared against aggression.

It is very ill-boding that such provocative outbursts were timed to coincide with the frantic "Team Spirit" joint military exercises simulating a northward invasion, MINJU CHOSON says in a commentary today.

The news analyst says:

The U.S. imperialists' clamour about "threat from the North" is a nonsense and pretext to justify their preparations for northward invasion. Raising a hue and cry over "threat from the North" without cessation, they are stepping up war preparations on the plea of coping with it.

They keep their occupation forces in South Korea still today, stockpiling greater quantities of military hardware, when disarmament and nuclear arms reduction are now a trend of the times.

The combat equipment stockpiled in South Korea is more than to carry out several wars of aggression. Offensive exercises such as landing, air strike, river-crossing and commando operations are being held ceaselessly with the mobilization of various types of sophisticated mass destruction weapons.

Yet, the U.S. imperialists are now crying for measures to counter aggression from the North. This reminds one of a thief crying "stop thief!"

If the U.S. trigger-happy quarters continue to take the road to war adventure, clamorously repeating the cliche about "threat from the North," it would only result in precipitating their own destruction.

Article Views U.S. 'Regional Strategy'

SK0304123391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0007 GMT 29 Mar 91

[NODONG SINMUN 29 March special article: "The U.S. Imperialists' Regional Strategy and Team Spirit"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists are frantically running wild in war provocation maneuvers by staging the aggressive Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise with the South Korean puppets. The Team Spirit joint military exercise can be regarded as an active expression of the U.S. imperialists' policy of force in light of its aim, character, content, and size. It is, therefore, a test nuclear war and a preliminary war designed to launch a surprise, preemptive strike against the northern half of the Republic. Because of these reckless and provocative war maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, the situation in our country has become extremely tense, and a grave, touch-and-go situation has been created on the Korean peninsula.

The launching of the Team Spirit joint military exercise in the face of the strong protest and condemnation of our people and the peace-loving people of the world shows that the U.S. imperialists are frantically waging various types of operations to attack the northern half of the Republic through three-dimensional warfare. This vividly reveals the U.S. imperialists' old wild ambition for a northward invasion, and their bellicose nature.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated that the U.S. imperialists are more unscrupulously perpetrating the maneuvers for triggering a new war in Korea in particular.

The staging of the Team Spirit joint military exercise by the U.S. imperialists is by no means accidental, because the exercise is a war exercise which comprehensively fulfills all conditions for the military action to implement the U.S. imperialists' regional strategy. All military actions are the basic means for implementing a strategy and serve it. When a strategy seeks an aggressive aim, accordingly military actions also have an aggressive and offensive character, and the form, method, size, and content of the military actions are prescribed according to this.

Attempting to dominate the world by force is precisely the U.S. imperialists' wild ambition. In a bid to realize this wild ambition the U.S. imperialists are frantically preparing for a global war and a regional war. Last August in Colorado Springs, U.S. President Bush raved that the United States would implement the strategy of attaching more importance to a long-term challenge and regional disputes. Here, the long-term challenge means a global war, and the regional disputes mean regional wars. The global war and regional wars form the basis of the U.S. imperialists' strategy of force. Of these wars, the U.S. imperialists today have attached particularly vital significance to regional wars. This is related to the fact that, with the exception of the two world wars, all the numerous wars of aggression, large and small, that the U.S. imperialists triggered were regional wars. Furthermore, all the disputes that are occurring in the world today involve a series of regions as a unit. Most of these disputes have occurred in regions with rich resources and in areas of strategic military importance.

Proceeding from this, raving about cessation of the cold war, the arrival of the era of peace, and the like, the U.S. imperialists not only have maintained strategic superiority and nuclear superiority, with the destruction of the balance of strength in international relations as an occasion, but are also concentrating great efforts on triggering regional wars. This can be proven by a series of recent remarks by U.S. strategic planning officials that have illustrated Bush's strategic concept. In the remarks, referring to the issue of securing the U.S. strategic superiority and nuclear superiority over socialist countries, strategic planning officials particularly have stressed the issue of more rapidly and more effectively coping with regional crises, including the issue of coping with emergency forward military troop deployment overseas, the civilian mobilization capability to cope with military requirements, and aerial and maritime transportation capabilities.

The U.S. imperialists are scheming to trigger such a regional war on the Korean peninsula in particular. They have not only attached great importance to the location of the Korean peninsula more than ever before in implementing their aggressive Asian and Pacific strategy, but have also regarded it as a most suitable area of strategic military importance in checking by force the socialist force in Asia and the Pacific and gaining supremacy over it.

This is why, having prescribed South Korea as the first frontline for the implementation of the U.S. strategy, the U.S. rulers have deployed there over 40,000 U.S. troops armed with modern lethal weapons, and more than 1,000 nuclear weapons. Thus, they have turned this region into a forward nuclear base, the largest in the Far East.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise is a comprehensive war exercise which contains the form, method, size, and content of the U.S. imperialists' military action to implement their regional strategy on the Korean peninsula; in other words, these are all the military components necessary for a northward invasion. As the world already knows, in this military exercise, not only all armed forces of various military branches, weapons, and equipment capable of completely waging a regional war have been mobilized, but also various types of offensive operations of launching a surprise preemptive strike on the frontlines and on the rear area simultaneously, and of waging blitzing three-dimensional warfare have been waged.

Such facts tell us that the U.S. imperialists are attempting to trigger a new war of northward invasion on the Korean peninsula, using the same form, method, and content as those of the Team Spirit military exercise. This is precisely the gravity and danger of this aggressive military exercise.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise which the U.S. imperialists have frantically staged annually in South Korea is not aimed only at triggering a regional war on the Korean peninsula. By perfecting this provocative war exercise, the U.S. imperialists are attempting to trigger a war of aggression in other regions in the world, using this exercise as a model. The amount of troops and equipment mobilized in this military exercise, if expanded, can be used for such a war as the war in the Gulf, and, if reduced, can be used for such a war of aggression as we saw in Grenada and Panama.

Many military experts today are paying special attention to the fact that many aspects of the Team Spirit joint military exercise are similar to the war in the Gulf that the United States waged. This is by no means accidental. The Team Spirit joint military exercise is a comprehensive war exercise designed to trigger a war of northward invasion on the Korean peninsula and, at the same time, is an aggressive military action to implement the U.S. imperialists' regional strategy.

The criminal content of the Team Spirit joint military exercise and its danger cannot be concealed by anything. No matter how desperately the U.S. imperialists and their buglers try to attach the label of defense to this war exercise, its aggressive nature and danger have been more clearly bared to the world with each passing day. The Team Spirit joint military exercise is not only the main cause which increases the danger of war on the Korean peninsula, but also creates a danger to the peace and security of Asia and the rest of the world.

It is indeed natural that the progressive people of the world who love and treasure peace are today strongly calling for the immediate suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are staging, and they are pointing out its dangerous nature. The detente, peace, and the like that the U.S. imperialists are raving are an out-and-out lie and are nothing but a screen designed to cover up their policy of aggression and war provocation maneuvers.

The U.S. imperialists are the mastermind of aggression and war, and are the ringleaders who oppose independence, sovereignty, socialism, and peace. If they really want detente and peace, they should show it through their actual acts on the Korean peninsula where the danger of war hangs most thickly.

Paper Calls U.S. 'Wrecker' of Dialogue

SK0304060991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 3 Apr 91

["U.S. Imperialism, Wrecker of Inter-Korean Dialogue"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN comes out with a signed article entitled "U.S. Imperialism, Wrecker of inter-Korean dialogue."

The article says:

The inter-Korean high-level talks which were held amid the great expectation and interest of all Koreans in the North, the South and overseas are now on the verge of collapse and a serious obstacle is lying in the way of peace and peaceful reunification of our nation.

Whenever an atmosphere of dialogue was created and signs of detente were in sight between the North and the South, the U.S. imperialists reinforced the Armed Forces, stepped up the war provocation moves and systematically obstructed the reunification of Korea behind the facade of dialogue.

It is the U.S. imperialists who have obstructed the reunification of Korea and wrecked inter-Korean dialogue down through history.

In the early 1970's, when the historic July 4 North-South joint statement based on the three principles of national reunification—independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—was published and North-South dialogue started to implement the agreed points of the joint statement, they doggedly hindered it and brought it to a rupture.

In the 1980's, they massed aggression forces and military hardware in South Korea and its surrounding waters, led the situation to the extreme pitch of strain, threatened with arms the people calling for independence, democracy and reunification and desperately blocked the way of inter-Korean contact.

Multi-channelled dialogues were held between the North and the South and people, though in small number, travelled between Pyongyang and Seoul, delighting the fellow countrymen and this fanned the desire for the reunification of the country on a nationwide scale.

Even at that time, the U.S. imperialists, displeased with the developments, ran riot in anti-communist confrontation and war rackets which were incompatible with dialogue and peaceful reunification.

They have annually staged "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers with the South Korean puppets for invasion of the northern half of Korea, each time bringing the hard-won dialogue between the North and the South to a suspension.

Today, the U.S. imperialists are bringing the situation in Korea to the extreme pitch of strain, still resorting to the "two Koreas" policy and war moves, and manipulating the South Korean puppets to seek confrontation and division, lay artificial obstacles to North-South dialogue and harshly suppress the South Korean people's movement for national reunification.

The U.S. imperialists must discard the anachronistic Korea policy, stop the "Team Spirit" war game incompatible with dialogue, detente and peaceful reunification, withdraw their troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and refrain from egging the South Korean puppets on to division and war.

South's Local Assembly Elections Criticized

SK2803045791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—The "local Assembly elections" of cities, counties and municipal wards in South Korea on March 26 ended with a very low voting rate of 55 percent, a radio report from Seoul said. Seoul recorded the extremely low rate of 42.3 percent and it was below the 50 percent mark in such major cities as Inchon, Taegu, Pusan, Taejon and Kwangju.

This voting rate is the lowest ever in the history of "elections" in South Korea, said South Korean radios.

The boycott of "elections" by many voters despite all manner of appeasement and deception is explained by the fact that the No Tae-u group schemed to use local autonomy for consolidating the fascist ruling system, not for democracy, contrary to the will of the people.

This scheme of the South Korean authorities will rouse the people to a new fierce resistance.

Services Mark Anniversary of Dissidents' Visit

SK0104055791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—A prayer meeting was held at the Pongsu Church in Pyongyang on March 31 for Rev. Mun Ik-hwan's reunification activities and the release of Yim Su-kyong, Mun Kgyu-hyon and Yu Won-ho on the lapse of two years since Rev. Mun visited Pyongyang.

The prayer meeting was attended by believers in Pyongyang and overseas. [sentence as received]

Rev. Kang Yong-sop, chairman of the C.C.[Central Committee], the Korean Christians Federation, made the prayer, which was followed by a sermon of Yi Song-pong, chief minister of the Pongsu Church.

He said the emotional Pyongyang trips of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Mr. Yu Won-ho in the spring and coed Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon in the summer of 1989 are recorded in brilliant letters in the history of the movement for national reunification of Korea.

Back in South Korea, Rev. Mun is vigorously continuing his staunch struggle, powerfully rousing dissident organizations and believers to reunification under the banner of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, the chief minister noted, and continued:

Mr. Yu Won-ho, coed Yim Su-yong known as the "flower of reunification" and Father Mun Kyu-hyon are still suffering behind bars at the hand of the South Korean authorities.

If the South Korean authorities keep the patriotic-minded messengers of reunification behind bars, they will face bitterer denunciation and curses from the fellow countrymen and world conscience.

On the occasion of Easter, let us all in the North and the South unite with a single heart and vigorously fight to dismantle the deadly wall of division and restore our nation as soon as possible under the banner of national reunification, transcending the differences in ideology and idea, system and religious belief and achieve the reunification in 1995.

A similar prayer took place at Changchung Cathedral in Pyongyang on March 30.

South Defectors Send Letter to Kim Chong-il

SK0304103191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—Defectors who had served in the South Korean puppet army before coming over to the northern half of Korea and are now enjoying a happy, worthwhile life sent a letter to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on March 25.

NODONG SINMUN today frontpages the letter.

In the letter they say that the great leader President Kim Il- song not only highly estimated their defection to the north as a patriotic deed, not asking their detestable past, but also honored them with high state decorations.

It is you, dear leader, who, carrying his policy into practice, gave us defectors the dignity of DPRK citizens and everlasting political integrity, provided a sure guarantee of our happiness and reared and brought us to the fore as dependable builders of the revolution and construction, the letter stresses, adding:

It was under your loving care, benevolence which even our real parents could not give us, that today we officers and men who came over here have grown up to be cadres of the party and state and economic organs, competent functionaries in the domains of science and technology, education, culture and art or have been honored with the titles of hero of the republic or labour hero, the highest distinction for the DPRK citizens.

The letter notes that the dear leader brought up a defector of the South Korean puppet army to be a well-known agricultural scientist with a degree of doctor, an unknown actor who once served in the South Korean puppet army to be the hero of a revolutionary opera and a merited artiste and the children of a former battalion commander of the "ROK Army" to be members of the Workers' Party of Korea. Having lived under the different systems of the North and the South, we heartily feel how benevolent the socialist system of our country is, the letter says, stressing: The bosom of the great leader and the dear leader is the embrace of the true motherland for all of our nation.

Guided by this faith, we resolve to hold you the dear leader in high esteem as the illustrious leader of our nation and the lodestar of national reunification and staunchly fight under the leadership of the party, the letter emphasizes, and continues:

We firmly pledge ourselves to defend our socialist system at the cost of our lives without the slightest vacillation no matter which way the wind may blow and to avenge the maltreatment and humiliation of our parents, brothers and sisters and fellow countrymen in South Korea on the enemy a thousand fold.

Besides ourselves, we will educate our children to devote their body and soul to the accomplishment of the chuche cause by growing up as loyal subjects and filial children boundlessly faithful to you the dear leader so as to repay with loyalty your deep trust and loving care generation after generation.

The letter sincerely wishes the dear leader a long life in good health for the reunification of the country, the eternal prosperity of the nation and the happiness of the posterity.

Defector Interviewed About Conditions in South

SK0304105891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—Chi Yong-chun, 30, who was a staffer of the Mudung hotspring tourist hotel in Kwangju, South Korea, before coming over to the northern half of Korea through a third country some time ago, was interviewed by home and foreign reporters at Pyongyang Koryo Hotel this afternoon.

Born in Kohung County, South Cholla Province, he worked for three years as a bedroom caretaker of a tourist hotel in Pohang, North Kyongsang Province. Afterwards, he worked in the service domain including hotels and restaurants to earn money for university studies. He was once engaged in trade union activities.

Explaining the motive of his defection, he said:

While reading various books including "On the Chuche Idea," a work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and "The Path of Patriotism" and "Synoptic History of Korea," I realized that the South is a society for the privileged quarters which make living hard for the toiling masses and that a genuine social system for the working masses has been built in the North.

He said he joined the struggle, discontent with the society of the South, only to face repression by the fascist authorities, he stated he made the bold decision to come over to the North to wage a new struggle for the fellow countrymen.

He stripped in full nakedness the criminal atrocities and anti-popular crimes of the No Tae-u ruling quarters with what he himself had witnessed and experienced.

Recalling that he took part in the struggle to nullify the election rigged by the Kuro District, Seoul, office at the end of 1987, he continued: This struggle broke out when the No Tae-u group attempted to replace the true ballot box in the constituency by a false one full of ballots for No Tae-u. This is a patent proof that the "presidential" election in South Korea was one rigged by the No group.

Chi Yong-chun further said:

The "local elections in small cities, counties and municipal wards" held in South Korea some time ago were also illegal, false elections backed by "government" power and money. The members of the "Democratic Liberal Party" of No Tae-u, the military dictator forsaken by the people, can never win in the elections without fraud.

No Tae-u advertises "democratic politics," styles himself an "ordinary person" and even advertises his "achievements" in the three years of his office. He is, indeed, a crafty and tricky fellow.

It is he who declared "security politics" to harshly suppress the pro-reunification democratic forces, proclaimed a "war against crimes" last year to stifle the patriotic pro-democracy, pro-reunification forces and declared an "emergency wartime system" recently to engage himself in man-hunting [as received].

There is a noticeable change in the consciousness of the South Korean workers. Their complaints against the oppressive society and dictatorship of South Korea are growing and they are realising that their demands will never be met unless the present ruling system is overthrown.

The desire to live under the great leader of the nation is growing among the workers and other people of South Korea. They say it is only General Kim Il-song who can lead our nation.

The dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il has a very high reputation among the people with the chuche idea disseminated widely all over South Korea these days.

Jiang Zemin Interviewed on Sino-North Ties

SK0104051891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, stated that the friendly and cooperative relations between China and the DPRK were expanding continuously when he was interviewed by the chief editor of the Japanese paper CHUNICHI SHIMBUN on March 29.

We will continue to develop the friendly and cooperative relations with the DPRK from a positive position, he emphasized.

Noting that the relations between Japan and the DPRK were being improved with the start of the talks for the normalization of diplomatic ties, he expressed hope for the progress of the talks between Japan and the DPRK.

PRC University Signs Cooperation Agreement

SK2803113291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—An agreement on cooperation between Kim Il-song University and Yanbian University of China in the fields of education and science was signed here today.

Present at the signing ceremomy on the Korean side were President of Kim Il-song University Pak Kwan-o and other personages concerned, and on the opposite side were members of the delegation of Yanbian University of China headed by its President Pak Mun-il.

Soviet Reunification Group Visits Mangyongdae

SK0104031691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] A delegation of functionaries of the Soviet Committee for the Promotion of Korea's Reunification, led by Committee Secretary Cho Yun-hoe, toured Mangyongdae, the cradle of the revolution.

Visiting the old home in Myongyongdae where the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was born and in his youth nurtured great revolutionary ambition, members of the delegation listened to explanations of his glorious and brilliant revolutionary history and his revolutionary family. They viewed with great interest the revolutionary relics. They posed for a picture to commemorate their visit to the old home in Mangyongdae.

After the visit, the delegation leader noted how the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song had left his old home in Mangyongdae at the age of 14 and made immortal achievements for the fatherland and the people. He wished the great leader good health and long life.

The delegation also toured the May Day Stadium. After the tour, the delegation leader stressed that this world-renowned structure could be built only by the Korean people and that such an excellent structure constructed with their own strength, technology, and materials is the pride of the people.

The delegation toured various places in Pyongyang and local areas including Kim Il-song University, Triumphal Arch, Palace of Youth and Students in Mangyongdae, and Sohae Lockgate.

Trade Accord Signed With Mongolian Delegation

SK0104050191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—An agreement on trade and payments between the Governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Mongolian People's Republic was signed here Sunday.

Present at the signing ceremony on the Korean side were Pang Tae-yul, vice-minister of foreign trade, and other officials concerned, and on the opposite side were Mongolian Ambassador to Korea Jambaldorjiin Bandra and members of the government trade delegation of Mongolia.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Kaysone Phomvihan

*SK3003151291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1502 GMT 30 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today sent a message of greetings to Kaysone Phomvihane on his election as chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP).

The message says:

Your election as chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party is an expression of deep trust of your entire party members and people in you.

Expressing the belief that the excellent friendly relations forged between the two parties will grow stronger and develop in the future in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship, the message wishes him greater success in his responsible work to implement the decisions of the fifth party congress as well as his health.

Vietnamese Party Sends Solidarity Letter

*SK3103091291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0815 GMT 31 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—A solidarity letter dated March 22 came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam in denunciation of the aggressive "Team Spirit 91" joint military maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling quarters and in support of the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

The letter says:

We are closely following the grave situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula.

The current "Team Spirit" war game clearly shows that the United States' policy of threatening the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with armed forces remains unchanged and it is creating an instability in the regional situation.

The Vietnamese party, Government and people fully support the proposals of the WPK and the Government of the DPRK to reduce tension on the Korean peninsula and achieve the country's reunification in a peaceful way and will as ever do our best to support the just struggle of the Korean people for the country's peaceful reunification.

We are convinced that the just cause of the Korean people will certainly triumph.

Solidarity Letter Received From SRV Minister

*SK3003042791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0409 GMT 30 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—A solidarity letter has come to Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam from Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach supporting the new proposal for national reunification put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

The letter notes that the party, government and people of Vietnam deeply understand the long-cherished legitimate desire of the Korean people for reunifying the country peacefully at an early date and have consistently supported the just stand and positive measures of the DPRK Government for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

The letter expresses deep satisfaction with the new development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and evinces the belief that these relations will grow stronger and develop with the passage of time.

Art Troupes Begin Arriving for Spring Festival

*SK3103094691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0838 GMT 31 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—A delegation of Japanese musicians, the art troupe of the Nakhodka City Koreans Association of the Soviet Union, the art troupe of the Makarov City [word indistinct] association of the Soviet Union, the art troupe of the Khabarovsk Korea National Cultural Centre of the Soviet Union and the Koryo Art Troupe of Sakhalin region the Soviet Union, flew here Saturday to participate in the 9th April spring friendship art festival.

Kim Il-song Receives Departing Nigerian Envoy

*SK0204103891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1016 GMT 2 Apr 91*

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Nigerian Ambassador E.P. to Korea Salau Adeku Lawal who paid a farewell call on him.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and an official of the Nigerian Embassy here.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the ambassador.

Vice President Meets With Envoy

*SK2803110891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1029 GMT 28 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—Vice-president Yi Chong-ok met and conversed with Nigerian Ambassador to Korea Salau Adeku Lawal who paid a farewell call on him at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Turnout of Officials at Report Meeting Cited

*SK2703073291 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 1300 GMT 25 Mar 91*

[Excerpts] A report meeting was held on 25 March to mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's classical work, "On Some

Problems Which Arise in Implementing the Uniform Price Policy." [passage omitted]

Comrade Choe Yong-nim, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice premier of the State Administration Council; and functionaries concerned, including Chae Hui-chong, Yun Ki-chong, Han Chang-kun, and Chong Myong-kap, attended the report meeting together with functionaries in the price fixing sector. [passage omitted]

Factories, Enterprises Fulfill Quarterly Plans

SK3003111091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1006 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—Factories and enterprises in various parts of Korea have carried out the plans for the first quarter of the year ahead of schedule.

According to data available, the South Hwanghae Provincial Fishery Administration fulfilled on March 25 the seafood production plan for the first quarter of the year set 80 percent higher than last year.

During this period the Administration produced nearly two times as much seafood as in the same period last year, increasing the production of tangle by over 20,000 tons.

The Sinuiju shipbuilding yard fulfilled the first quarterly plan at 124 percent twenty days ahead of schedule and the August 8 mine fulfilled the first quarterly plan on all indices on March 25.

The Kaesong disabled soldiers medical appliances factory and the Kaesong plastic daily necessaries factory and other factories in Kaesong Municipality carried out the first quarterly assignments ahead of schedule.

The Imyongsu forestry station also hit the timber production target for the first quarter of the year more than a month earlier than the set time.

Musan Mining Complex Tops First Quarter Goal

SK2803151091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1455 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—The Musan Mining Complex, a leading iron headings production base of Korea, beat its first quarter year target of iron headings on March 27.

As a result, the iron headings output of the complex jumped 50 percent above the same period last year and it has become certain that the first half yearly plan will be fulfilled ahead of schedule.

In the last ten days of March, the complex topped the daily quotas by 4,000 to 5,000 tons in iron headings production.

Komdok Miners Fulfill First Quarter Assignments

SK0304042591 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Miners of the (Samchon) mine of Komdok Mining Complex brilliantly fulfilled the first quarters' assignments by more than 105 percent as of 20 March.

With the firm resolution to make this significant year marking the 30th anniversary of the great leader's visit to their working site shine, they vigorously struggled to effect an upsurge in minerals production.

Militant members, such as Comrades Kim Sung-chol, Pak Son-hwa, Pak Chong-nam, and Cho Chol-un of the second crushing and screening workshop, adamantly and vigorously carried out their work under the firmest conviction, "What the Party Decides, We Will Do," thereby fulfilling the work of screening coals by more than 120 percent a day.

Militant members of Mabochon first and second workshops carefully carried out the work of managing facilities and technology, operated all facilities at full capacity, and guaranteed the density of the (?mineral liquid) as required by technology stipulation. By so doing, they fulfilled high-set daily assignments by more than 120 percent.

'Diverse', 'Rich' Exploitable Minerals Described

SK0304152291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1502 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—Korea has diverse and rich underground resources.

The great leader President Kim Il-song said:

"Our country has huge deposits of hundreds of kinds of valuable and useful minerals including iron ore, a veritable treasure house with gold, silver and jewels."

There are more than 400 kinds of minerals in Korea, 200 kinds of which are useful minerals.

Among them are gold, iron ore, manganese ore, lead, zinc, tungsten, molybdenum, magnesite, limestone, apatite, black lead, coal, marble, copper, nickel, cobalt, chrome ore, etc. There are large deposits of iron, lead, zinc, magnesite and coal in particular.

Large quantities of high-grade iron ore are deposited in North Hamgyong Province and South Hwanghae Province, particularly, billions of tons of magnetite in Musan area, North Hamgyong Province. Nonferrous metal, rare metal and nonmetallic minerals are found in abundance in South Hamgyong Province, South Hwanghae Province, South Pyongan Province, Kangwon Province and North Hwanghae Province, and lead, zinc, magnesite and apatite in Tanchon area, South Hamgyong Province. Estimated billions of tons of magnesite ore have been surveyed.

Limestone, raw material of vinalon, cement and carbide, is deposited in the area accounting for 25-30 percent of the territory.

Tungsten found mainly in North Hwanghae Province and Kangwon Province is widely known to the world for its good quality and large deposit.

Coal resources, mainly high-caloric anthracite and lignite, are found throughout the country. Billions of tons of anthracite and lignite are deposited in Kaechon, Sunchon and Anju Districts, South Pyongan Province.

Billions of tons of coal deposits were recently surveyed in Saebyol County of North Hamgyong Province, Paekam County of Yanggang Province, and other areas.

Korea is steadily developing economy with its abundant underground resources and raw materials.

Wonsan Ship Repair Develops New Metal Process

SK2903104191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 29 (KCNA)—Technicians of the Wonsan Ship Repair Plant in Korea recently developed a method of metal heat treatment by laser and introduced it into production.

It has opened a bright prospect in drastically improving the qualities and durability of accessories of all machinery and rolling stocks, metal tools and moulds.

The new method is based on engineering principle of increasing the dynamic intensity of metal surface and friction resistance by throwing a laser beam on a metal surface.

A test showed that the hardness of the metal surface increased 3.9 times and friction-resistance 10 times after heat treatment by this method.

Researchers say that, if this method is applied to mixing metals, the friction resistance of the metal alloy will grow 40 to 50 times.

Several machines including a laser-processing machine were developed and manufactured in the course of the researches.

* Electronics/Automation Industry Growth Urged

912C0154A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 30 Jan 91 p 3

[Article by Kim Hi-ku: "The Development of the Electronics/Automation Industry Is an Essential Requirement for the Acceleration of the Technological Revolution"]

[Text] In his New Year's message the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song instructed that a continuing upswing be made in every aspect of socialist construction this year by raising high the banner of the chuche ideology and vigorously waging three revolutions, ideological, technological, and cultural. Upholding the great leader's programmatic instruction, we should wage the technological revolution more vigorously along with the ideological and cultural revolutions.

The technical revolution is a natural demand of communist construction and the most important revolutionary task confronting the working-class party. Only through a vigorous prosecution of the technological revolution is it possible to develop the nations' productivity and free all workers from toilsome labor and better ensure an independent and creative life for them.

Recognizing the great importance of vigorously accelerating the technological revolution, our party early on set forth the technical revolution as one of the important aspects of three revolution and saw to it that it was pushed forward vigorously. It was thanks to their vigorous prosecution of the technical revolution under the leadership of the party and the leader that they were able to accomplish the historic task of socialist industrialization in a short period of time and solidly consolidate the material and technological foundations of socialism.

Today our people are confronted with the mission of executing the tasks of the technical revolution at a new, higher stage of its development on the basis of the results achieved so far in the prosecution of the technical revolution. One of the important problems arising in this connection is how to develop the electronics/automation industry.

Recognizing the importance of developing the electronics/automation industry in actively accelerating the technological revolution, our party clearly set forth the tasks, goals, direction, and methods for developing this industry and has provided sagacious guidance in the implementation of these tasks. As a result, our electronics/ automation industry has entered a very high stage where it has become a solid wherewithal for the realization of the chucheization, modernization, and scientization of our national economy, namely, an important sector which is contributing in earnest to the vigorous acceleration of the technological revolution. On this basis, we should strive to develop our electronics/ automation industry faster still.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught as follows:

"In keeping pace with the wide introduction of semiautomation and automation in various sectors of the national economy, we should quickly develop the electronics industry and the automation industry and thus satisfactorily ensure the production of various automation components, instruments, and apparatus."

The electronic/automation industry is an important branch of the machine industry which produces various electronic and automation instrumentation and its components, instruments, and apparatus which are indispensable in operating and developing the fast and complex process of production. Only by developing the electronics/automation industry is it possible to produce in great quantities electronic materials, electronic components, electronic instrumentation, and electronic equipment as well as components, instruments, and apparatus used in automation and remote control, and help all sectors of the national economy accelerate technological progress and attain a high level of productivity based on the latest scientific and technological know-how. The development of the electronics/automation industry will actively contribute to the introduction of semi-automation and automation in various sectors of the national economy, particularly in the machine tool industry which is the basic foundation for the development of the machine industry. Therefore, unless the electronics/automation industry is developed, it is impossible to accelerate the technological revolution at a high level, or to successfully achieve the modernization of technological provisions, in keeping pace with the latest trends of development of science and technology. It follows that to develop the electronics/automation industry, which forms the material basis of the technological revolution, is an essential requirement for achieving a high level of acceleration in the technological revolution.

The development of the electronics/automation industry will above all vigorously accelerate the production of numerical control (NC) machine tools and other modern machine tools which form the basic foundation for the development of the machine industry.

The technological revolution is none other than a mechanical revolution. When the machine industry develops and produces modern machinery and equipment in great quantities, it becomes possible to expedite the overall modernization of the national economy.

The production of NC machine tools and other modern machine tools in great quantities can accelerate the technological revolution at a high level, and this is by and large related to the important position machine tools occupy in the machine industry.

Machine tools are the basic means of producing all means of production. If the heavy industry is the heart of the national economy, the machine industry is the nucleus of the heavy industry, machine tools being its parent body. If the development level of the machine industry is an important yardstick for evaluating the material and technological foundations of all sectors of the national economy, the scale of machine tool production and the level of machine tool development serve as a decisive factor in evaluating the machine industry at large. Accordingly, producing NC and other modern machine tools in great quantities by expanding the scope and level of machine tool production will mean a high degree of development of the machine industry.

Ours is the age of electronics and robots in which machine tools are operated by NC on the basis of the latest electronic and automation technologies. NC and other modern machine tools are operated automatically by digital programs. This makes it possible to produce modern machines and equipment by ensuring the highest degree of precision and accuracy in processing and measurement while changing or stopping the revolution and speed of machines at will.

Thanks to the wise leadership of the party, NC lathes, NC-operated general-purpose bench lathes [chonghap kagongban], NC flame cutters [pulkot kangongban], NC milling lathes, and a great variety of other modern machine tools are being produced in our country today. However, there can be none of these modern machine tools apart from the development of the electronics/automation industry. The electronics/automation industry produces engine connecter ports [kigwan chopsokku], speed regulators, NC tools, and other electronics and automation instruments and apparatus, thereby making it possible to produce NC and other modern machine tools in great quantities. This enables us to accelerate the technological revolution in our country at a high level by vigorously stepping up the development of the machine industry.

The development of the electronics/automation industry also enables us to successfully realize the automation, robotization, and computerization of production.

The transition of production process from mechanization to semi-automation to automation to robotization and computerization—this is a natural process of the technological revolution.

By the automation, robotization, and computerization of production is meant, in brief, that the process of production is operated by electronic and automated instrumentation. In other words, the production process is operated by electronic and automation components, instruments and apparatus, and computers.

Only through the automation, robotization, and computerization of production is it possible first of all to completely free workers from toilsome labor and provide a more affluent and cultured life for them.

How much the workers have been freed from toilsome labor under the socialist system is largely determined by the level of mechanization and automation of production. The automation, robotization, and computerization of production transfers the control and logical functions in production from human beings to the automated operation of machinery and makes them instead take charge of the managerial aspect of the operation. With the help of electronic and automated instruments and computers provided by the electronics/automation industry, this will not only free people completely from toilsome labor but also eliminate all distinctions in labor and thus enable them to enjoy complete equality in their work. On the other hand, the automation, robotization, and computerization of production enables people to stock not only their mental capacity but also their physical capacity in technical provisions and free themselves from the limitations of their physical and mental capacities, thereby markedly developing productivity and increasing the percentage of technical provisions used in production unusually high and boosting production dramatically. As a result, a more affluent and cultured life can be provided for the workers by constantly increasing the production of material wealth and solving the problems of food, clothing, and shelter in a satisfactory manner.

Only through the automation, robotization, and computerization of production is it also possible to increase the existing productivity to the maximum.

No matter how numerous the technical equipment introduced in production may be, it would be impossible to maximize productivity if the technical equipment and production process are based on outmoded technologies. To put the exiting productive potential into maximum use, we have to constantly automate, robotize, and computerize equipment and production processes. Then and only then is it possible to achieve a high overall development of the national economy in a short period of time with a modest investment.

Only through the development of the electronics/automation industry is it also possible to actively promote the modernization of technical provisions.

Ours is the age of science and technology. Science and technology is continually developing, and accordingly, the modernization of technical provisions is progressing at a very high level. We can firmly guarantee the continuance of this process only through the speedy development of the electronics/automation industry which is based on the most advanced science and technology. When we put efforts into developing the electronics/automation industry in keeping pace with the worldwide trends and score further progress in this sector, we will be able to successfully achieve a high level of modernization of technical provisions.

Let all functionaries, workers, scientists, and technicians in all sectors of the national economy, including the electronics/automation industry, launch as one into the task of rapidly developing the nation's electronics/automation industry and thus bring about a new, great turn in the prosecution of the technological revolution, with a keen awareness of the great significance of speedy development of the electronics/automation industry in the present period.

* Extraction Industry Development Reported

912C0143A Pyongyang NODONG CHONGNYON in Korean 13 Jan 91 p 4

[Article by Yun Yong-yol]

[Text] The great leader Marshal Kim Il-song taught: The extraction industry is where the production process begins, therefore all areas of the people's economy cannot progress properly unless we give priority to this area.

Today, people obtain 93 percent of the needed energy from mineral fuel and uranium, and the key industry enterprises operate based on mineral materials.

We cannot make vinalon without anthracite and limestone, and without vinalon the textile factories cannot operate properly.

In addition, we cannot extract iron without iron ore and coal, and without iron we cannot even think about machine building and construction.

The extraction industry has been built on an inseparable relationship with human development history.

In particular, the extraction industry has developed rapidly for the last 100 years or so. During this period, the world output of the useful minerals has doubled every 12-20 years. During the 100-year period (1875-1975), the total output of coal was 137 billion tons, the total output of crude oil was 46.7 billion tons, and the total output of iron ore was 24.5 billion tons. Today, the annual output of coal, crude oil and iron ore is respectively 4.9 billion tons, 2.5 billion tons and 900 million tons.

Then, which direction is the extraction industry heading?

First of all, the proportion of strip mining has gradually increased.

Even until the beginning of the 1920's the strip mining was insignificant; but since the end of the 1920's it has developed rapidly, and it now occupies more than 44 percent of the coal mining, over 85 percent of the iron ore mining, and 100 percent of the stone mining. Today, in order to mine one cubic meter of a useful mineral, we usually strip 5-10 cubic meters, or rarely 16-20 cubic meters, of rocks.

However, because mining is gradually moving inward, the growth in strip mining is expected to be limited, and mining relies increasingly on the recently developed methods which combine the strip mining method and the pit mining method.

Next, the extraction industry is pushing hard forward to replace the facilities and pits with large ones. Particularly noteworthy are the large-scale strip mine facilities. The bucket volume of the mechanical-shovel-style excavator, which is used in strip coal mines, used to be 4-5 cubic meters in the 1950's; but it is now about 35 cubic meters in general and even 135 cubic meters in some cases.

And the truck load capacity was about 65 tons in the 1950's, but is now 100-155 tons and even 230 tons and 318 tons.

The galleries are becoming large, too. The mine galleries have been constructed to accommodate the traffic of large trucks, and in fact, some of the coal mines guarantee the area of the drift shaft to be over 16 square meters.

The extraction industry is also intensely focusing on production. The average daily load at a blind end in a longwall coal mine gallery was 150-350 tons in the 1960's and 400-1,500 tons in 1980, and is now 1,500-1,900 tons. The production capacity of the pit and strip mine has increased, too. With an increase of the overall production scale, the strip mines with an annual production capacity of over 40 million tons and the pits with an annual production capacity of over 8 million tons have been cropping up.

The extraction industry is gradually changing its production method from a rotation process to an assembly-line process, and has completed a comprehensive mechanization of production process and is being introduced to automation.

In addition, the extraction industry is conducting a broad range of research and is introducing special methods of mining that are based on a new principle, which are different from the conventional methods of mining.

These methods include the hydraulic mining method, underground gasification method, liquefaction method, leaching method, and mining of the seabed resources. The most promising of these is the hydraulic mining method, which uses a jet of pressurized water at 16-30 mPa to drop ore and coal which are then mixed in the water and then pumped to the earth's surface. The underground gasification method is presently at an experimental stage. In this method, two holes are drilled on a coal bed, and after they are connected, the coal bed is ignited while the air is being blown in, and then gas is extracted from the other hole.

Other experiments include methods of pumping up the coal, nonferrous metals and uranium after liquefying them using the water, chemical reagent and micro organism. Mining of the manganese, copper and chromium on the seabed is presently at a planning stage.

Our workers, scientists and the youths shall vigorously launch the technological revolution and apply scientific methods to the production system, and thereby shall thoroughly implement the party policy in giving priority to the extraction industry.

History of Pyongyang Metro System Viewed

SK2903232491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1454 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 29 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang Metro holds a big portion in the transport of citizens.

The first-stage project of the metro was completed in September 1973.

This was followed by the completion of the second-, third- and fourth-stage projects bringing the total length of the railways to dozens of kilometres.

The double-track lines cover seven districts including central, Moranbong and Potonggang Districts. There are seventeen subway stations. The names of the stations are profound in meaning and rich in content. The station which is situated at the place where the great leader President Kim Il-song delivered his first address after his triumphal return home with the historical victory in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was named "Kaeson" (triumphal return) and the station at the place associated with his immortal exploits in leading the three-year fatherland liberation war (June 1950-July 1953) to victory was named "Chonsung" (victorious war).

All other artistically decorated stations such as Kwangbok, Puhung, Konguk and Yonggwang Stations were built at places of historical significance.

The stations are gorgeously decorated with murals and sculptures suited to the thematic ideas of their names.

There are nearly 100 large murals and 100 odd sculptures, some of them in relief, and the stations from the Pulgunbyol to the Puhung and from the Nakaon to the Kwangbok. They resemble underground art galleries. All the paintings of a high ideological and artistic plane strike the people with admiration. Conspicuous among them are the large mosaic murals "Land of Chuche" and "Blessed Potong River" showing the majestic sight of chuche Korea and its fast development and large sculptures in relief symbolic of the economic development of the country.

The spacious halls, chandeliers of hundreds of thousands of beads and direct and indirect lighting devices each with their specific style add to the grandeur and gorgeousness of the stations.

Clean and refreshing air is blown into the stations with flawless artistic representation.

New sections of subway will be built in Pyongyang.

Progress of Parks in Pyongyang Reported

SK3003151191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1457 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—Spring tree-planting is brisk in Pyongyang with tree planting day (April 6) approaching.

Many trees of various species such as apricot, dawn redwood and gingko trees are being planted in streets, parks, holiday resorts and other places of the city.

Pyongyang called a city in a park attaches great importance to the greening work. Every year it expands the green space by building parks and recreation grounds and plants trees in a planned way.

The wooded area of city has increased 400 times and the number of parks and holiday resorts 85 times over the past 40 odd years.

A solid material and technical foundation has been laid in the city to do tree-planting in a planned and far-sighted way.

There are construction and designing centers specializing in building parks as well as tree-planting stations, floricultural farms, managing office of parks and recreation grounds, and gardener training courses and nurseries around the city.

Cuban Embassy Helps Build Pyongyang Tramway

SK0104050091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0434 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and his embassy officials Sunday gave a helping hand in tramway construction in Pyongyang.

They helped the soldiers of the unit of the Korean people's security forces to which Comrade Kim Tok-sam belongs who were accelerating the construction of the Songsan parking lot under the plan of the Workers' Party of Korea for the building of the capital city.

The Cuban ambassador said that the tramway construction which is progressing at fast speed is another profound solicitude of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il for the Korean people.

The friendly relations between the two countries based on the deep intimacy between respected Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz will continue to grow in strength and develop as days go by, he said.

Collection of Buddhist Scriptures Displayed

SK2703152391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1455 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—Complete collection of Buddhist scriptures, a cultural heritage valued as a national treasure, are on display at the History Museum in Myohyang of Korea with devices for their eternal preservation completed.

The collection of Buddhist scriptures are books printed from 80,000 wooden blocks in the period of Koryo Dynasty (918-1392). It, vast in volumes, oldest among the existing old complete collections of sutras and rich and correct in content, is Buddhist scriptures accepted as a standard complete collection of scriptures in the world.

The museum has taken measures to permanently keep the complete collection consisting of over 1,000 volumes and displayed them on the order of chapters—sutra, code and theory.

Now home people, overseas compatriots and foreigners visiting the museum can see at first hand the high printing technique of our forefathers and the content of the voluminous collection of scriptures.

KCNA Review of 3 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK0304060591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the Nigerian ambassador e.p. to Korea.

Carried in the press is a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Lansana Conte, president of the transitional council of national redressment and president of the Republic of Guinea, on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the proclamation of the second Republic in Guinea.

Immortal classical works of President Kim Il-song were studied and disseminated in different countries, says NODONG SINMUN.

MINJU CHOSON tells a story that President Kim Il-song has established a scientific manuring system in keeping with the requirements of the chuche farming method to bring about a new change in the development of agriculture.

Printed in NODONG SINMUN is a letter to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent by defectors from the South Korean puppet army.

The paper deals with a story that Comrade Kim Chong-il led the party members and other working people to learn from the faith of loyalty and fidelity cherished by the anti-Japanese guerrillas.

The paper carries a solidarity message to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from Rashid Khan Menon [spelling as received], general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh, denouncing the "Team Spirit-91" joint manoeuvres.

Econews of the press includes reports that iron headings production is going on at a high level at the Musan mining complex and the sowing of seed rice on cold beds is in full swing at co-op farms.

Given in the press are accounts of the opening of sports contests for "Mangyongdae Prize" and the arrival in Pyongyang of foreign art troupes and visiting groups to participate in the Ninth April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

Printed in the press is a telephone message sent by Chon Kum-chol, vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, to the "chief justice of the Supreme Court" of South Korea, notifying him of his intention to go to Seoul to plead for the South side's delegates to the Berlin tripartite working-level talks.

According to NODONG SINMUN, the secretary general of the Japan Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, issued an article titled "People-First Socialism of Korean Style".

Carried in the press are a report that the South Korean authorities demanded 10 years in prison for student Song Kap-sok, former chairman of the National Council of Student Representatives, and commentaries denouncing this criminal act.

The South Korean news of papers includes reports that students attacked the puppet Taegu City Hall and the Daewoo motor shop and an inaugural ceremony of the headquarters for the [passage indistinct] to the party rules at the fifth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

Papers introduce Guinea and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article on the unprecendented financial crisis of the United States.

South Korea

Kim Chong-il PRC Visit Said 'Unlikely'

SK0304092891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0919 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—A well-placed South Korean Government official said Wednesday he thought it unlikely that North Korean President Kim Il-song's son and heir-apparent would visit Beijing within the near future.

If he did, however, Kim Chong-il, 49, might use the trip to test his diplomatic skills. Kim is relatively unknown in the international forum and has so far been confined to domestic affairs.

The official said China was expected to ignore the power transfer from father to son as an internal matter.

Daily Views Alleged Visit

SK0304101491 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 3 Apr 91 p2

[Article by reporter O Tae-chin]

[Text] The MAINICHI SHIMBUN's report that Kim Chong-il of North Korea will make a secret visit to China beginning on 3 March is drawing keen attention at home and abroad.

If the report is true, it will be the second foreign visit on official business in his life since his secret visit to China in 1983. Authorities concerned have predicted that Kim Chong-il would visit China around June, if possible.

Above all, his visit to China means that he begins in earnest his external activities as a successor. Thus, judging from his unexpected early visit to China, it can be said that, despite some skepticism at home and abroad, North Korea is accelerating the work of having Kim Chong-il inherit power. It is said that, as Kim Il-song did during his visit to China, Kim Chong-il will also meet such Chinese top-level people as CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, and Deng Xiaoping. Kim Chong-il, who has been engaged in the work of the government and the party and mainly in the policy toward the South, can ensure his position at home and abroad by winning hospitable support from China—the only supportive state.

However, it is thought that as it did in 1983, China will not refer to official support for Kim Chong-il, according to its noninterference principle, saying that "the issue of inheritance of power is an internal North Korean issue." When Kim Chong-il visited Beijing in June, 1983, at the invitation of Hu Yaobang, who was CPC general secretary, regardless of the North Korean position that "an official invitation means the recognition of a successor," China persistently stressed that its invitation was for a "visit to the scene of economic reform."

The issues, which will be negotiated during Kim Chong-il's visit to China, can be predicted by judging his visiting time. His Chinese visit is set for the day right after Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh leaves China through 5 April, when Japanese foreign minister Nakayama will arrive in Beijing. It is highly possible that China discussed the Chinese position on the issue of ROK entry into the United Nations with the Soviet foreign minister. In addition, it is natural that China should negotiate over the third round of the North Korea-Japan talks to establish diplomatic relations which will be held in Beijing in May.

In connection with its external policy and the issue of entering the United Nations in particular, North Korea is now stranded. The North Korean proposal that the North and the South should enter the United Nations with one seat, which it put forward last year as a way for preventing the ROK from entering the United Nations, has not gained support. Thus, the trends on the whole are going toward the realization of the ROK entry into the United Nations within this year. The only issue left is whether or not China will exercise its right of veto. North Korea is nervous that the Soviet Union is urging China to abstain from voting. Such being the case, it is necessary for North Korea to learn China's ultimate intention in order to take measures for its future in a hurry.

It seems that in connection with the Beijing talks to establish North Korean-Japanese diplomatic relations, North Korea will ask China to support its policy and to offer other conveniences to realize early diplomatic relations. At the same time, North Korea will try to put a brake on ROK-China's establishing diplomatic relations. This is inevitably linked to the speed with which North Korea and Japan establish diplomatic relations.

One analysis is that Kim Chong-il's visit to China is a starting point of the general changes in North Korea's external policy. The reality at home and abroad inevitably makes North Korea consider practical changes in its UN policy, its policy toward the South, and its external economic policy. If such an analysis is really true, Kim Chong-il's visit to China will, rather, be an occasion for North Korea to open its eyes to recognize and adopt reality.

Official: Kim Chong-il's Succession 'Likely'

SK0304120991 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 3 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] It is highly likely that North Korean President Kim Il- song may hand over his power to his elder son Kim Chong-il before or after his own birthday, 15 April, when he turns 80 next year.

A high-ranking government official said on 3 April: I understand that North Korea is making it official at home and abroad that between February and April next year, when Kim Il-song turns 80 and Kim Chong-il 50, there will be a transition of power. Kim Chong-il's visit to China also seems to be the final stage in his efforts to assume authority over diplomatic affairs.

This government official continued: It is worthwhile to remember that North Korean radio mentioned the birthdays of Kim Il-song and his son in 1992 as much as three times in a report on a rally of employees at the Musan Mining Complex on 25 March, saying: The employees at the Musan Mining Complex held a meeting to demonstrate their resolve to effect a new revolutionary upsurge in the production of ore concentrate before 15 April and 16 February 1992.

He added: The fact that North Korea stressed President Kim's birthday next year, not this year's, which is only days from now, means that North Korea has begun making the power transition official.

At a time when there are mountains of pending diplomatic issues such as the UN issue, negotiations for establishing diplomatic ties with Japan, Kim Chong-il, not Kim Il-song, is making a trip to China in order, it seems, to make public at home and abroad that he has authority over diplomatic affairs, in addition to his authority over military affairs.

PRC Urges Continued Talks on Korean UN Seats

OW0304005391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0010 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 3 KYODO - Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu called Tuesday for continued inter-Korean talks on U.N. membership for North and South Korea, Foreign Ministry source said.

Liu, in a 50-minute meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, was quoted as saying it is "preferable that the issue be solved between the two Koreas."

Liu is currently in Seoul to attend the U.N. affiliated Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) general meeting.

He is the highest ranking Chinese official to visit South Korea, which has no diplomatic relations with China despite growing economic ties.

Yi, chairman of the ESCAP meeting, explained South Korea's stance during the meeting that it will seek the U.N. seat alone even if North Korea continues to oppose joint admission.

China apparently wants a gradual development of bilateral relations with South Korea, the sources said, noting that the two countries established nongovernment-level trade promotion offices last January.

During the talks, Yi called for early establishment of regular direct flights between the two countries and the abolition of China's discriminate tariffs on South Korean products.

Liu said he will convey the request when he returns to Beijing, the sources said.

North's Emphasis on Denouncing South Noted

SK2603103491 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 23 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] It has been learned that North Korea, inwardly and greatly suppressing the people's reunification fervor, has recently been very busy with a denouncement offensive against the South, and that it is likely to show clear signs of backwardness in its southern and reunification policy.

A high-level government official said on 22 March: North Korea has attempted to pursue such a policy on the assumption that if it tries to realize reunification on the Korean peninsula by peaceful means instead of in a revolutionary way, at a time of the economic difference between the North and the South being clearly high, it cannot avoid the "road of a German style of unification through absorption." In considering this, our government should change its reunification policy from its currently impromptu policy. It should press ahead with long-term plans and objectives.

Moreover, it has been learned that our government's policy against the North is to hastily move to apply for single UN membership this year. Our government has made North Korean internal affairs, such as human rights, a subject of discussion. Our government also has decided to expand practical exchanges and cooperation between the North and the South. These were also caused by our government's analysis of North Korean policy changes against the South.

However, another government official said: Such a change in North Korea's attitude does not mean a rupture of North-South dialogue, but it can be predicted that North-South dialogue will go round and round in circles without bearing concrete fruition for two or three years in the future.

Government Urges North To Resume Talks

SK3003010991 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] The government has urged North Korea to resume the fourth round of inter-Korean prime ministers' conference and the 11th Red Cross talks next month.

South-North dialogue of various channels, except for sports talks, has been suspended unilaterally by North Korea, for what the north claims was the annual Korea-U.S. defense-oriented war game, Team Spirit.

The government call for the reopening of the talks came in the first meeting of unification-related Cabinet members and other high-ranking officials, presided by Deputy Premier-Unification Minister Choe Ho-chung yesterday.

The reopening of the South-North talks at various levels is necessary to help create circumstances conducive to unification and to work out basic framework for the improvement of relations between the two halves of the Korean peninsula.

The government also decided in the meeting to take positive efforts to solve the humanitarian problems pending between the two sides, including the free travel of some 10 million people who have been separated from each other.

Participants in the session agreed that the prime task of unification policies following the rapidly changing circumstances is to "build a system for peaceful coexistence through national reconciliation and normalization of relations."

They also stressed the need to "raise the public confidence of the government unification policies in order to strengthen the national capability to achieve unification."

The top unification officials resolved to expand and support steadily overall personnel and material exchanges between the South and the North, which are expected to prompt changes in the North.

The unification-related ministers' meeting was established in March according to a presidential decree to discuss unification policies.

During the session, Deputy Premier-Unification Minister Choe said, "North Korea is seeking to intensify its strategies to disrupt South Korea in a bid to find a way out of its serious economic difficulties and international isolation."

"Under these circumstances, we have to push through exchanges and cooperation with the North more positively and to deter the North's strategies toward the South more effectively," he said.

The participants decided to hold the meeting on the first Wednesday of every month.

IPU Delegates To Cross Into North 27 Apr

SK0304084391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0829 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—The South Korean delegation to the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] meeting in North Korea has decided to cross through the truce village of Panmunjom on April 27 and to return on May 6.

The delegation, to be led by Rep. Pak Chong-su, chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, also decided Wednesday to consult North Korea about the schedule as soon as possible.

The 85th IPU general meeting is slated for April 29-May 4 in Pyongyang.

At the first preparatory meeting, chaired by speaker Pak Chun-kyu, all the delegates promised to stress parliamentary diplomacy during their stay in North Korea, and to use their visit as momentum to resume various levels of inter-Korean talks and activate exchanges between South and North Korea, a participant said.

The speaker especially asked the delegates to behave themselves in Pyongyang, he said. Pak told them to act with dignity as South Korean lawmakers and remember the importance of relations between the two Koreas.

The delegation is scheduled to leave for Panmunjom from the National Assembly at 10 A.M. April 27 by car and bus, and from Panmunjom will head for Pyongyang in vehicles provided by the North Koreans.

Judge Denies Northerner Permission To Testify

SK0304062191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0601 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—When Judge Na Chae-kyu of the Seoul District criminal court recently gave the defense permission to call a senior North Korean official as a witness, he apparently thought he was on safe ground and nothing would ever come of it.

Na said Tuesday a "misunderstanding must have arisen" in the course of his circuitous explanation because he had really been refusing to adopt Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland, as a witness in the trial of three South Korean dissidents charged with contacting North Koreans without government sanction.

"When calling anyone as a witness, the legal responsibility falls entirely upon the court (not the government)," he said.

"As far as Chon's testimony is concerned, I intend to question him in the framework of the on-the-court witness interrogation system only if attorneys present him as a witness, because summoning Chon is impossible in light of current relations between South and North Korea," Na said.

Korea's "on-the-court witness interrogation system" allows an attorney to call a witness without any notice or warning.

The defense has asked the court to call Chon along with former Unification Minister Hong Song-chol and the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan.

The three dissidents are charged with violating the national security law by contacting North Koreans in Berlin last November.

North Korea's Nuclear Potentials Analyzed

SK0304075691 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 1 Apr 91 p 4

[Article by reporter Kim Hyo-chae, entitled "North Korea's Nuclear Potentials"]

[Excerpts] [Editor's Note] The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula has emerged as a matter of international interest. Intelligence organizations of the West, including the United States, judged that North Korea is completing facilities capable of mass production of nuclear weapons in a few years. The Soviet Union proposed that North Korea discard its attempt to produce nuclear weapons and the Korean peninsula be denuclearized by withdrawing nuclear weapons of U.S. troops which are believed to have been deployed in South Korea. It has been learned that the authorities of U.S. Armed Forces in the ROK and some of the ROK military are carefully reviewing the issue of so-called preventive bombing aimed at destroying North Korea's nuclear facilities in advance. North Korea's nuclear armament will bring enormous effects in strategic environment in Northeast Asia. What is the degree of nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula? Views of experts on the nuclear question on the Korean peninsula, which is being briskly discussed after the end of the Gulf war, are presented here. [end editor's note]

The Status of Nuclear Facilities:

Military experts are of the opinion that North Korea will have a mass production system for nuclear weapons by the mid-nineties. An American military intelligence expert who visited Japan late last year warned that judging from pictures taken by military satellites and other intelligence sources, North Korea will complete a mass production system for nuclear weapons by 1995 or 1996. According to pictures taken by military satellites, the nuclear power station in Yongbyon is divided into a research-purpose nuclear reactor; small- size nuclear reactor; large-size nuclear reactor; enriched uranium plant and redisposal facilities of nuclear fuel. [passage omitted]

What constitutes a problem is the large-size nuclear reactor which is expected to be completed and to begin operation around 1994. North Korea began to build this reactor in 1984 after the model of an old French reactor. Its capacity is known to be from 50 to 200 megawatts. Experts are of the view that when this reactor is completed, the annual production of protium will be approximately 18 to 50 kilograms with which two to five nuclear weapons can be produced. In addition, when the redisposal plant for nuclear fuel is completed in 1995 and begins operation, North Korea will have the mass production system of nuclear weapons in 1996, a year later. The reason of regarding the nuclear research complex in Yongbyon as a nuclear weapons manufacturing plant by experts is that there is no facility in this complex which can be considered power generation facilities. [passage omitted]

The possibility of North Korea's nuclear armament is expected to give enormous impact to security order in Northeast Asia. Needless to say, the target place of such impact is the ROK. It is an inevitable order that voices calling for developing countermeasures will immediately resound from the ROK military when North Korea is confirmed to have a mass production system for nuclear weapons. Deployment of nuclear weapons in the ROK has not been officially confirmed even once up to now. The United States is adhering to the policy of neither admitting nor denying the existence of nuclear weapons. Deployment of nuclear weapons in the ROK was raised merely by civilian experts on military affairs and by retired U.S. generals who once served in Korea.

North Korea's nuclear armament will instigate the military expansion of Japan.

Even Taiwan, which began to develop nuclear weapons nearly at the same time with the ROK but suspended due to the U.S. pressure, will again attempt to develop.

Countermeasures:

Measures to check North Korea's nuclear armament can be categorized into the following three points: First is the step for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The Soviet Union takes denuclearization of the Korean peninsula as its official position. Military experts in the United States and in the ROK and some Congressmen support this step. [passage omitted]

Those who support denuclearization of the Korean peninsula put forward an important precondition. That is: North Korea should agree with nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and should suspend development of nuclear weapons. North Korea signed the IAEA's nuclear safety agreement in 1985. However, North Korea refused IAEA's field inspection, which is an essential step for it to take, even after signing this agreement. Because of such an attitude by North Korea, the ROK and U.S. Governments are opposed to the policy of denuclearization.

The second measure for checking North Korea's nuclear armament is to resolve international sanctions. Doctor (Lorens Sheyman) from Cornell University in the United States held that the United Nations should adopt a strong resolution demanding suspension of North Korea's nuclear development with such intensity and logic as it applied when adopting a resolution for strong sanctions against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The third step is to destroy the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon by bombing before they are completed.

When ROK reporters visited the United States in July last year at the invitation of the U.S. Information Agency, some relevant officials in Congress and the military did not deny such a possibility, even in a limited manner.

A certain official in the Military Affairs Committee of the U.S. Senate said that "in the event that North Korea comes to have nuclear weapons in defiance of international opposition, preventive bombing would be possible." High-ranking officers in the U.S. Armed Forces Pacific Command expressed their agreement with this opinion.

It was learned that the U.S. forces in the ROK seriously considered this issue in actuality, and worked out a detailed operational plan for this. A pertinent military official revealed that "the preventive bombing is one of many scenarios which will be put into consideration when all diplomatic and political efforts for checking North Korea's nuclear development come to naught."

An expert on military strategy is of the opinion that the possibility of preventive bombing is not great.

North Korea's nuclear development appeared to be a counterstrategy against U.S. forces in the ROK. Thus, the possibility of North Korea's using this strategy as a multipurpose card for direct negotiations with the United States is great.

This expert stressed that "the situation on the Korean peninsula to be crowded with nuclear weapons is not desirable. Now is the time for the government to carefully review the measures for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in a forward-looking manner."

Yi Sang-ok, Indonesian Counterpart Discuss Boat

BK0304060491 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0417 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, Apr 3 (OANA-ANTARA)—South Korea here Tuesday promised that it would release on bail the crew of the Indonesian motor vessel "KM NIAGA 47" now detained in Inchon on harbor pollution charges in the coming few days pending the trial.

The South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok conveyed the promise when meeting his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas amidst the 47th meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Alatas after the meeting told ANTARA that the Indonesian Government thanked South Korea for the promise.

The 40-minute meeting was also attended by the Ambassador of Indonesia to South Korea Rudolph Kasenda and director general for foreign economic relations, Foreign Ministry, Puji Kuntarso.

Alatas expressed the hope to Yi that the Indonesian motor vessel, detained since December last year, pending the trial could also be released.

"In other similar cases, the ship would be released," he said.

"KM NIAGA 47" Captain Nasirin and three of his crew members are now detained in Inchon on pollution charges which they had repeatedly denied. The other crew members are aboard the ship.

Nasirin said he was not guilty of throwing oil waste into the waters in Inchon harbor.

It was reported earlier that for the harbor pollution charges South Korea had asked for a compensation of no less than 54 million U.S. dollars.

Both the Indonesian and South Korean foreign visisters stated that they would try to find the best possible solution to the issue which according to Alatas had recently "disturbed" the Indonesia-South Korea good relations.

Yi, however, said that the executive body in his country usually could not interfere in the affairs of the legislative body like the trial of "KM NIAGA" boat.

The owner of the ship, Pt. Pann, has sent its legal advisers to South Korea to settle the case.

Trade between Indonesia and South Korea last year, according to Ambassador Kasenda totalled 2.6 billion U.S. dollars in value. The figure jumped from only 1.8 billion U.S. dollars in the previous year.

Alatas confirmed that during the meeting with his South Korean counterpart, the country's wish to become a U.N. member was also discussed.

Indonesia, based on the universality principle of the U.N. membership, from the beginning does not see the difficulty of both North Korea and South Korea to become U.N. members.

However, there is a complexity in this case because North Korea stated that it will not become the world body's member unless North Korea and South Korea are unified, Alatas said.

North Korea is known to have strongly opposed South Korea's representation in the U.N., saying that it would only cement the [words indistinct] division of the Korean peninsula.

It proposes joint entry instead, which Seoul rejects.

South Korea says it would be best for both Koreas to join at the same time separately.

"Ideally the two could enter the U.N. but Indonesia will give a very serious consideration on the possibility of supporting South Korea in case it wishes to become a U.N. member."

South Korean President No Tae-u when opening the 47th ESCAP meeting Monday said his country would try to get a U.N. membership this year and several countries were reported to have supported the wish.

The 47th ESCAP meeting was the first U.N. meeting ever held in South Korea.

The country's officials have also made it clear that they expected the ESCAP meeting to help Seoul pave the way for its bid to join the U.N. after the opening of the General Assembly this year.

"It must be a direct contravention of the principle of universality that the Republic of Korea, a sovereign state with a population of [word indistinct] million and the world's 12th largest trading country with an annual trade volume of 130 billion U.S. dollars, should remain outside the U.N.," they said.

Three Journalists Leave Iraq, Arrive in Turkey

SK0304131591 Seoul YONHAP in English 1303 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—The three South Korean reporters who were reported earlier to have disappeared in Iraq while covering revolts in the Kurdish north have arrived safely at the border town of Semdinli in southeast Turkey, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

The three comprise one from the TONG-A ILBO and two from the HANGYORE SINMUN.

Kim Yong-sam Apology to Party Affairs Committee

SK0304080391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam moved swiftly and decisively Wednesday to repair the damage done to his grip on power in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party by agreeing with opposition leader Kim Tae-chung on some sensitive issues.

Summoned before the party affairs committee, Kim said he was sorry for causing the party concern by talking with Kim Tae-chung at a prayer meeting in Taegu.

An accord issued by the two Kims after their meeting opposed a parliamentary system and "interference" by public security officials in politics.

Defending himself against charges that he had undermined president No Tae-u's authority, Kim said the wording of the agreement was inadvertently changed from "public security-oriented politics" to "public security-oriented ruling" when Kim Tae-chung read it to reporters.

The reference to public security-oriented politics meant only that politics should be left to politicians, he said.

On his opposition to parliamentary government, Kim said he had simply stated the ruling party's position on the matter and that it was Kim Tae-chung who mentioned it first.

The apology and exuses seem to have nipped the controversy in the bud as members of the factions led by President No Tae-u and former Prime Minister Kim Chong-pil dropped it, reasoning that allowing the dispute into the open would hurt the party's image prior to the second stage of local elections in June.

Meanwhile, No sent an emissary to Kim Yong-sam Tuesday afternoon to make sure he knew the full measure of presidential displeasure over his dealings with Kim Tae-chung.

Pak Chol-on's Moves Toward Presidency Viewed

SK0304040291 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 28 Mar 91 p 9

[Article by reporter Mun Il-hyon]

[Text] Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on has been very busy these days, and, as a result, a tense atmosphere has prevailed in the political circles. This is because Minister Pak, who had refrained from making political remarks or conducting political actions, is now moving prudently this time. As is known, when he put up a poor challenge to Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam last April, he was bludgeoned mercilessly and, as a result, resigned from the post of state minister of political affairs.

Various ominous moves have been seen from the Minister Pak camp. First of all, he has made every effort to line up people on his side.

Lawmaker Kang Chae-sop, the director of the DLP Planning and Coordination Department and a close adviser to Minister Pak, formed what is called Taejihoe [Grand Will Society]. This organization is trying to enlist DLP lawmakers. On the other hand, Wolgyesuhoe [Laurel Wreath Society], Minister Pak's private organization, is also trying to enlist DLP lawmakers as well as DLP local chapter chairmen who are not lawmakers.

Taejihoe was a golfers' gathering at first. However, its members include those lawmakers who did not want Wolgyesuhoe membership, conscious of their choice of association. Taejihoe has 18 members; they include lawmakers Choe Un-chi (chairman), Cho Yong-chang (secretary general), Pak U-pyong, An Yong-ki, Yi Sang-tuk, Hwang Yun-ki, Chang Yong-chol, Pak Chin-ku, Ko Se-chin, Hwang Song-kyun, Pak Chi-won, Yi Yong-mun, Kim Kil-hong, Kim Chong-ki, and Kang Chae-sop. It has its own office.

It is unusual that the Minister Pak side has recently, secretly restructured and reinforced Wolgyesuhoe and its umbrella organizations.

Last February, the Minister Pak side assigned former journalist Yi Chae-won, who was vice state minister for political affairs when Minister Pak was state minister for political affairs, to the task of reorganizing Wolgyesuhoe. It was learned that since the revelation last year that some of its members were involved in criminal organizations, Wolgyesuhoe has been working to expel those who have a bad reputation at their own region or who have problems from a moral standpoint.

More important than anything else is what Minister Pak himself has been doing. He attended every sports and youth meeting to let himself be known; visited Kwangju, a city off-limits to those of the ruling circles, and paid homage to the Mangwol-tong cemetery; and frequently visited Pusan, Chonju, and various other major cities across the country.

Minister Pak himself said: "I am not a patient who suffers from a political disease, and it is not necessary for me to make haste under present circumstances." In this way, he directly denied the rumors that he will seek the presidency. However, he also said: "I will wait to see how the leaders of the ruling and opposition parties will resolve the political mess this fall." This is a meaningful statement.

Minister Pak even said that, to justify its demand that a party congress be convened ahead of schedule, and that party power be handed over ahead of schedule, the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] faction inside the DLP has spread the rumors that he will seek the presidency.

When one scrutinizes the various moves taking place inside Minister Pak's camp, one will know in many ways that Minister Pak is dreaming of becoming the next president, not the president after next.

The background of "post-No Tae-u strategy" which Minister Pak's camp is implementing in haste for the next-term presidency can be explained based on the following three major points.

First, when municipal and provincial council elections are completed in June this year, demands calling on those to take responsibility for the result of the elections will increase, and Chairman Kim Yong-sam will be forced to explain on his position from pressure within the RDP faction which strongly demands an early convocation of the party congress. Besides, senior assemblymen from the Democratic Justice Party [DJP] faction, including Cochairman Pak Tae-chun and assemblyman Yi Chong-chan who have a secret ambition for the presidency, may openly declare their competition with Kim Yong-sam.

The competition to gain hegemony within the DLP, which will come to the surface before and after the 14th-term general elections, will be organized with the forces, which will openly advocate the participation in the competition for the presidency, as its main faction. The groups not participating in the competition for the presidency may be pushed aside from center stage.

Second, since Chairman Kim nullified the constitutional revision favoring a cabinet system, which was a precondition for integrating the three parties, his dictatorship should not be allowed in handling the work of concluding the Sixth Republic, to which President No's post-presidency issue is related, and the work of linking the Sixth Republic to the Seventh Republic. It appears that judging from the present atmosphere, Minister Pak believes that the possibility of President No's designation of Chairman Kim as his successor is very slim.

In other words, Minister Pak seems to believe that despite Chairman Kim Yong-sam's hope, President No will choose his successor through free competition.

This being the case, when there is no clear competent candidate within the DJP faction who can compete with Chairman Kim, Minister Pak's camp might have considered that the one who starts first will be relatively advantageous, and may even be victorious.

Lastly, Minister Pak's camp might have also taken into consideration that it is better for the camp to bring Minister Pak into the same rank with Chairman Kim in order to actively prevent political repression from being imposed on President No Tae-u, who is an absolute supporter of Minister Pak, and is the source of his strength, after stepping down from office.

At any rate, Minister Pak's camp is accelerating moves to improve Minister Pak's image toward public opinion, to expand supporting forces within the Assembly, to secure able members in its secretariat, and to strengthen its nationwide organizations.

It has also been learned that in addition to such advance political actions which Minister Pak's camp is accelerating, the close associates of Minister Pak have worked out several next-step strategies to challenge the next-term presidency.

Such strategies seemed to be designed for the case in which the current direct presidential election system is adhered to.

Minister Pak's camp predicts that the Democratic Faction, including Chairman Kim Yong-sam, will launch a powerful offensive in demand of guaranteeing for the party's hegemony, and of upgrading Chairman Kim's position within the ruling camp in any form around July and August when the municipal and provincial council elections are completed.

In this event, the pan-Democratic Justice forces, including such leading figures as assemblymen Yi Chong-chan, Yi Chun-ku and Yi Han-tong who have the political interest in such moves by the Democratic Faction, will undoubtedly react on this instinctively, and will build a joint front to neutralize the attempt of Chairman Kim's side.

Another strategy is to again push ahead with constitutional revision to adopt the cabinet system.

It is an observation of Minister Pak's camp that in the event that the results of the 14th-term general elections clearly show the indication of significance for shifting political generations, and indicate remarkable reduction of forces supporting two Kims compared to that of the 13th-term general elections, the two Kims themselves will inevitably demand the constitutional revision favoring the cabinet system in order to prolong their political lives.

It was revealed as the second-stage strategy of Minister Pak's camp that it will realize the constitutional revision favoring the cabinet system after openly pushing for this. Minister Pak's camp will then have one of three Kims as the first-term prime minister, thus ending the era of three Kims, and following this, will have Minister Pak as the next prime minister.

However, a number of people have the negative view on the possibility of realizing such strategy by Minister Pak's camp seeking the presidency. They think that Minister Pak's root is weak and his image toward general public is not favorable due to various mistakes he made during his early stage of political debut.

Therefore, it is the intent of Minister Pak's camp to propagandize, first of all, Minister Pak, regardless of whether for good reputation or ill fame.

Another point at issue is that there is an anti-Pak Chol-on force even within the Democratic-Justice faction, as well as an anti-Kims force, and whether the anti-Pak force will come under the banner of Minister Pak is questionable.

On the other hand, Chairman Kim's side judges that Minister Pak's challenge to the presidency would not be always disadvantageous to Kim's side because his challenge may also hinder the unity of the Democratic-Justice faction. Chairman Kim's side, which is familiar with popular politics over more than 30 years, has confidence that it can certainly win victory over Minister

Pak in competition with him, when such a situation comes. However, Chairman Kim's side appears to be patient for the time being in an attempt to win president No's support.

It is also anticipated that if Minister Pak attempts to exercise influence over nomination of candidates in the 14th-term National Assembly elections, senior members of the Democratic-Justice faction, not to mention Chairman Kim, will strongly resist this. In this case, whether Minister Pak's camp can secure its supporting forces within the National Assembly as it intends, is doubtful.

59.1 Percent: Elections Fairer Than Previously

SK2803043491 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 28 Mar 91 p 1

[Excerpt] It was shown that a majority of voters attached the greatest significance to candidates' "characters" and "campaign promises" in selecting candidates.

CHOSON ILBO and Korea Gallup polled 527 men and women from across the country who are 20 years old or older for five and one half hours starting at 1700 on 26 March, when the voting was almost over. In this telephone poll, concerning the question "What was important to you in choosing candidates?", 41.9 percent cited candidates' "characters"; 31.6 percent, their "campaign promises"; 10.1 percent, their "party allegiance"; and 6.1 percent, "personal acquaintance." Of those polled, 10 percent picked other answers.

Men and women and people of different age groups answered differently. Thus, 63 percent of women cited candidates' "campaign promises," and 34.8 percent cited their "characters." Also, 40.4 percent of people in their twenties cited candidates' "campaign promises," and 30 percent cited their "characters."

Concerning the question "What was the most useful in selecting candidates?", 36.2 percent picked "posters and placards"; 18 percent, "words of neighbors"; 14.1 percent, "campaign speeches"; "official notices on the elections"; and 6.2 percent, "newspaper and radio and television reports."

It was shown that only 2.7 percent said that they received money or were wined and dined, while 97.3 percent said they were not. Concerning the question "Were the elections fairer than the previous National Assembly elections?", 59.1 percent said that "it was fairer"; only 5.4 percent said that it was less fair"; and 30.2 percent said that "it was as fair as the previous elections."

Concerning the question "Did you go to campaign rallies?", 81 percent said that they "did not," while only 18.8 percent said that they "did."

Concerning the question "Do you support the current regulation which bans candidates from visiting voters' houses, 63.7 percent, an absolute majority, supported the ban, while 24.4 percent opposed the ban. [passage omitted]

Survey Views President's Performance, Assembly

SK0304045991 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 1 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] In a recent survey conducted by this newspaper company to "assess the performance of public institutions," only 8.2 percent said that the National Assembly is "doing well, while 79.6 percent, almost 80 percent, said that it is "not doing well." Also, 9.9 percent said that the ruling party is "doing well," while 77.3 percent said that it is "not doing well." Meanwhile, 12.5 percent said that the opposition parties are "doing well," while 74.2 percent said that they are "not doing well." Only 28.1 percent said that the president is "doing well," while 55.6 percent, more than a half of people, said that he is "not doing well."

Concerning the question of "how serious each current issue is?", 97.3 percent said that prices are serious, and 96.7 percent said that pollution is. Also, 96.4 percent said that traffic congestion is; 95.6 percent said that uneasiness over security is; 94.5 percent said that decadent and luxurious life-styles are; 94 percent said that the housing problem is; 92.7 percent said that the college entrance examination issue is; and 91.4 percent said that irregularities and corruption are. In addition, respondents cited the rural problem (90.1 percent); the gulf between rich and poor (80.5 percent); political instability (87.8 percent); unemployment (85.8 percent); human rights violations (77.2 percent); the sluggish growth of exports (72.5 percent); labor disputes (68.4 percent): and regional antagonism (61.9 percent).

This is shown in the "second survey on views on people's lives and social issues" conducted by our company and Tongso Research (President Pyon Tong-man), a local opinion poll organization. This survey polled 1,500 adult men and women from across the country for six days from 6 March and 11 March.

This result was compared to the result of a similar survey conducted in March of last year. Last year, 41.3 percent said that the president is doing well, while 28.1 percent, a decrease of 13.2 points, said so this year. Also, last year, 17.3 percent said that the National Assembly is doing well, while 9.9 percent, a decrease of 7.4 points, said so this year. Last year, 18.8 percent said that opposition parties are doing well, while 12.5 percent, a decrease of 6.3 points, said so this year. Last year, 13.9 percent said that the National Assembly is doing well, while 8.2 percent, a decrease of 5.7 points, said so this year.

Concerning people's "sense of morality," 52 percent said that people have a low sense of morality, while only 9.3 percent said that they have a high sense of morality. In connection with people's sense of morality, 40.8 percent said that violent crimes are the most serious. It was also shown that irregularities by government officials (22.0 percent), speculation in real estate by the rich (14.7 percent), luxurious life-styles and overconsumption

(10.2 percent), self-centeredness (7.2 percent), and a chaos in the sense of value (5.1 percent) are the next most serious issues.

Concerning the question "What do our political leaders lack?", 31.5 percent cited a "sense of responsibility"; 19.6 percent, "integrity"; and 17.9 percent, "sincerity." Concerning the question "What do our people lack?" (multiple choices); 68.8 percent cited the tendency of reporting crimes to authorities; 58.9 percent, the spirit of public service; 57.3 percent, the law-abiding spirit; 53.6 percent, a sense of responsibility; and 53.5 percent, a reasonable way of thinking.

Trade Balance With U.S., Japan, EC Reported

SK0304071491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea's trade balance with the United States and the European Community will improve this year, but with Japan it will worsen, a private economic institute predicted Wednesday.

Exports to the United States, Japan and the European Community are unlikely to increase sharply but imports from those countries will surge, tipping the trade balance in their favor, the Samsung Economic Research Institute said.

Korea runs huge surpluses with the United States and the European Community, but has a massive deficit with Japan.

The three areas account for about 60 percent of Korea's exports and are very sensitive to price competitiveness. In the U.S. market, a 1 percent hike in the prices of Korean goods would lower exports 1.45 percent in the long run.

The drop would be 1.75 percent in the Japanese market and 4.1 percent in the EC.

Exports to the United States would rise 3.04 percent if the real gross national product of the United States rose 1 percent, exports to Japan would increase 0.15 percent if Japan's real GNP rose 1 percent and EC exports would grow 0.32 percent.

Researchers said that after taking these variables into account, they had concluded that exports to the United States would rise 4.1 percent this year and imports would grow 12.9 percent.

Korea's trade surplus with the United States this year will be 1.02 billion U.S. dollars, 42 percent of the 1990 surplus.

The deficit with Japan will not improve. Exports to Japan will increase 8.9 percent but imports will surge 13.2 percent for a deficit of 7.27 billion dollars, up 20 percent.

Trade with EC will produce a deficit of 40 million dollars this year. Imports will grow 19.8 percent and exports 13.4 percent.

Despite multilateral efforts to diversify export markets, the United States, Japan and the EC will remain important for Korea and restoring price competitiveness is vital, the institute said.

Bank of Korea on Current Account Deficit

SK0304041791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0206 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea's current account deficit widened to 2.72 billion U.S. dollars in the first two months, compared to a goal of 2.5 billion dollars for the entire year, the Bank of Korea (BOK) reported Wednesday.

The central bank report on the tentative international balance of payments said the February deficit was 1.27 billion dollars, a slight improvement from January's 1.45 billion dollars. BOK estimated the March deficit at 900 million dollars for a first-quarter figure of over 3.6 billion dollars.

The trade deficit was 1.14 billion dollars on a customs clearance basis in February, with exports up 9.1 percent over the same month last year at 5.75 billion dollars and imports up 16 percent at 6.89 billion dollars.

Korea had a current account deficit of 2.18 billion dollars last year. The widening deficit was attributed to sluggish exports and a large import bill for oil.

The trade deficit was 1.36 billion dollars on an international payments basis. Exports rose 6.2 percent to 4.8 billion dollars and imports jumped 25.5 percent to 6.16 billion dollars.

With the United States, the shortfall hit a monthly record of 272 million dollars on a customs clearance basis, as exports slid 11.8 percent and imports climbed 18.3 percent.

Korea had trade deficits with Japan and the European Community of 638 million dollars and 134 million dollars, respectively.

In February, exports increased in chemical products (29.1 percent), audio and video recorders (21.2 percent), steel (7.7 percent), and electric and electronic appliances (7.5 percent).

Ship sales fell 30.4 percent. Light industry exports slipped 2.4 percent for their first setback since 1982, led by sluggish textile, footwear and toy sales.

Imports grew, particularly of aircraft and transportation equipment (310.1 percent), crude oil (70.4 percent) and steel (27.4 percent). Crude imports hit a monthly high of 39.9 million barrels costing 916 million dollars.

A cut in overseas tour spendings turned the invisible trade balance from a 55 million-dollar deficit to a 58 million-dollar surplus and a drop in individual overseas remittances resulted in a 30 million-dollar transfer payment surplus.

Small, Medium Companies Rush To Invest Abroad

SK2803032891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Mar 91 p 8

[Text] Small and medium business concerns are rushing to invest overseas in order to tide over the aggravation of their international competitiveness brought on by high wage increases and manpower shortages.

In particular, small enterprises manufacturing footwear and textiles are moving to advance abroad as they are unable to secure sufficient manpower because of low wages and bad working conditions.

At the same time, small companies which are challenged by their counterparts in developing countries on the international market are also striving to set up plants overseas.

More than 37 percent of small and medium firms want to invest abroad in a bid to break through their business difficulties, according to a survey by the Small and Medium Industry Corporation.

The survey covers 340 small and medium enterprises randomly picked across the country.

Of the polled companies, 37.6 percent said that they want to invest in developing countries in Asia in consideration of relatively cheap labor costs and abundant manpower there.

The surveyed firms include 41 which were allowed to invest abroad by the Bank of Korea last year. Of them, 31 companies, or 75.6 percent, seek to invest in developing countries in Asia, enticed by cheap labor costs there.

China and Sri Lanka are the most favored for their investment.

In the past, small and medium industries sought to invest in Indonesia and Malaysia.

But they are now reluctant to advance into Indonesia and Malaysia in fear of excessive competition.

In the meantime, 175 textile makers have transferred their production facilities overseas to cope with their weakening international competitiveness entailed by high wage increases.

Governmet Pledges Effort to Stem Pollution

SK2903124891 Seoul YONHAP in English 1218 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 29 (YONHAP)—The government will make all-out efforts to help the domestic industry adapt to the ever-intensifying international war on pollution, expediting technology development and industry restructuring, Economic Planning Board [EPB] officials said Friday.

In an inter-ministerial meeting on industrial policies presided over by Deputy Prime Minister-EPB Minister Choe Kak-kyu, it was decided that tax and financial support would be given to firms developing substitutes for materials subject to international ban and establishing anti-pollution facilities and equipment.

Policy support will be provided to firms keen on development of ultra-modern technologies requiring low energy consumption. Also in line for government support will be firms manufacturing materials and equipment that save energy while offering high added value. Investment in research and development of solar, wind and tidal energy will be expanded.

To work out comprehensive measures in response to the international efforts to deter environmental contamination, a committee will be formed under the vice EPB minister, comprising officials from foreign, finance, agriculture-forestry-fisheries, trade-industry, energy-resources, construction, transportation and environment ministries.

The committee will put the prime emphasis on enhancing the nation's access to such international efforts to curb environmental deterioration as the 1989 Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal, the 1987 Montreal protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, and the convention on the conservation of biological diversity are now in the making.

The committee will also positively respond to the international efforts to create a framework convention on climate change, particularly global warming.

According to EPB officials, little efforts have been so far made in the nation to produce substitutes for energy sources emitting methane, carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons and other harmful gases.

An estimated 86.6 billion won will be needed to develop substitutes that will meet the nation's need of freon, whose use was frozen by the Montreal treaty.

The domestic market of chemicals whose use is restricted under the Montreal treaty, is sized at 40 billion won but impact of the treaty is expected to spill over to a wide range of related industries valued at 4 trillion won, the officials said.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir To Urge Japan To Back Economic Group

OW3003193491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1447 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 30 (KYODO)—Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed Mahathir said Saturday he will seek Tokyo's support for his proposal to establish an East Asian economic group during an expected visit here by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, the state-run news agency BERNAMA reported.

Mahathir was quoted as saying he will use Kaifu's visit, expected toward the end of April, to brief him on the idea, proposed in December.

Kaifu, who canceled his planned visit to Southeast Asia in January due to the Persian Gulf crisis, is reportedly considering visiting the area between late April and early May.

Mahathir told a press conference that Japan has not rejected his proposal but has yet to decide whether to join the group, BERNAMA said.

International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz is scheduled to visit Tokyo soon to explain the proposal.

The group is envisaged as comprising the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), plus other Asian countries, including Japan and South Korea. But the proposal has sparked opposition from the United States, which would be excluded from the group along with other Pacific economic powers.

Japan remains cautious toward the plan for fear the group could be a protectionist trade bloc.

Mahathir reiterated that his proposal is not designed to create a trade bloc and that the group would not replace ASEAN or the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which includes Pacific Rim nations as well as the ASEAN members, BERNAMA said.

Official Views Japan's Role in Economic Group

OW0104174491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1459 GMT 1 Apr 91

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 1 (KYODO)—Southeast Asian countries expect Japan to play a leading role in maximizing the economic potential of the region when a proposed East Asian economic group is set up, a top Malaysian trade official said Monday.

Given Japan's close economic ties with the area, "it seems to be natural that Japan becomes part and parcel of any collaborative economic effort among the countries in the East Asian region," said Rafidah Aziz, minister of international trade and industry.

As an economic leader in Asia, Japan "could assume a very important role" as a "conduit" to channel the voice of developing countries in the region to other economic powers, and to feed anything back to them, she said.

"Certainly we see Japan's leadership role in helping optimize the economic potential of the region," Rafidah told a small group of Japanese reporters ahead of her visit to Tokyo this week.

With "more systematic collaboration" among the countries of the region together with Japan, they "can tap so much potential" in such areas as development of natural and human resources, and liberalization of regional trade, she said.

Rafidah, 47, made the remarks in connection with Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed Mahathir's proposal to establish an East Asian economic grouping designed to give regional countries greater negotiating leverage in world trade talks.

She leaves for Tokyo on Wednesday night for a four-day visit to brief Japanese Government leaders, including her counterpart Eiichi Nakao, on the proposal.

Japan will be the first country outside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to be officially presented with the idea.

Rafidah said that for the same purpose she will proceed to South Korea from Japan next week before returning home on April 11, and will probably visit China in July. These countries have been mentioned as among expected members of the group.

Japan has remained cautious toward the proposal for fear it could spur growing regionalism in trade and possibly fuel protectionism.

Indonesia, one of ASEAN's six members, has stopped short of fully endorsing the proposal, saying it requires further study.

The United States has expressed objections on the grounds it means a second, less inclusive group with the same objective as the existing Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

APEC groups ASEAN, which apart from Malaysia and Indonesia includes the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Brunei, and six non-ASEAN members, including Japan and the U.S.

The new group's membership will be confined to countries "within a certain crescent" stretching from South Korea and China down to Indochina and the ASEAN nations, Rafidah said.

It is "natural" to exclude the U.S. "because we are talking about East Asia," she said. But there is no need for the U.S. to worry about it because its exclusion "does not mean that we will do something" to harm U.S. interests, she said.

ASEAN is going to do "exactly what the U.S. is doing" because the country is benefiting from association with its neighbors, she said. "We want to do the same thing with our neighbors."

By forming a "meaningful small" group of countries, "we can contribute to APEC," as do the U.S. and Canada through their free trade pact, she said. But she reiterated that the group is not aimed at an exclusive trade bloc.

"It will not be a trade bloc or economic bloc or any bloc at all," she said. "It will be really a small grouping of countries working together without any formal structure or entity." It does not mean confrontation but "meaningful discussion or dialogue," she said.

Rafidah likened it to the Cairns Group of Agricultural Exporters led by Australia. After the initial phase of a Cairns Group-type approach toward the stalled Uruguay Round of World Trade Talks, the proposed group would "evolve into what it should be," possibly an East Asian common market in the future, she said.

APEC, having a purpose different from that of the new group, is a place for big players like Japan and the U.S., Rafidah said.

The focus of the proposed group will be different but it will be "consistent" with international trade rules and also will "not distort trade, (and) run in parallel with APEC."

If East Asian countries can group themselves officially and discuss issues of common interest, they can speak with a strong and single voice when they negotiate with others, she said.

Commentary on Minister's Trip To Explain EAEG

BK0304103391 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, today begins what is considered as an important visit to Japan and South Korea. Her mission is to explain to the leaders of those two countries the concept and intention of the proposed formation of the East Asian Economic Grouping or EAEG. While Japan is universally acknowledged as a world industrial superpower, South Korea has joined the ranks of newly industrialized countries and is well on the way toward becoming another giant in the Asian economic arena.

At a press interview two days ago, Datuk Sri Rafidah was frank and (?right) in pointing out Malaysia was merely following the example set by the United States when that country signed trade pacts with nations such as Canada, Mexico, and others in South America. The U.S. intention is clearly to strengthen trade relations with her neighbors. The EAEG has the same concept and purpose. In fact, all positive and effective steps taken by the U.S. in this direction have been carefully studied and integrated into the proposal to establish the EAEG. The minister has also stressed and she has repeatedly done that the proposed EAEG is not a step toward creating a closed-door trading bloc. It is intended only to serve as an informal consultative group for member countries. It will not undermine the influence of ASEAN nor would make it the role of Asia-Pacific economic cooperation or APEC which is the main body that functions to enhance trade among countries in the region. EAEG will in reality complement the role of APEC or also work in accordance with the rules governing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT.

Malaysia and her ASEAN partners are aware of attempts by certain quarters to persuade Japan to boycott the EAEG proposal. With particular reference to the United States on this issue, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has said that Malaysia is not surprised that this is being done. The U.S. does not seem to favor the idea of anyone forming a trading group without including or consulting her. The prime minister has also stressed that Malaysia will not launch a campaign to counter the United States efforts but would rather persist in highlighting the benefits of groupings such as the EAEG.

It is an encouraging sign that even countries that are not included in the proposed grouping like New Zealand and France, for example, have come out in support of the idea. They do not consider EAEG as a grouping meant to defend particular interests of any individual country but rather as a forum where the countries in this region can speak with one voice in their attempt to bring about a liberal global trading system. While Japan has yet to make a decision, she has not rejected the EAEG proposal. Japan can play a vital role in the grouping and can serve as a useful link between East Asia and the United States and Europe in trade negotiations. It is to be hoped that the current visit of Datuk Sri Rafidah will help to dispel existing doubts and convince the leaders of Japan and South Korea about the benefits of the proposed EAEG.

Johor Rejects Singapore Request for More Water

BK0204131591 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Apr 91 p 6

[By Rupa Damodaran]

[Text] Johor Baru, Sun—The Johor Government has turned down a resquest by the Singapore Government to supply more than the 1125 million litres (250 million gallons) of water daily it now supplies to the Republic.

Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Johor had to do so as domestic consumption over the next 30 years was expected to double because of rapid industrialisation.

Presently, Johor consumes about 650 million litres of water daily.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin said Johor had enough water reserves to meet future demands of the local population but did not have the capacity to meet Singapore's need for more water.

He was speaking to reporters after chairing the Johor Baru Municipal Council monthly meeting here.

"From studies of water resources I do not think we can supply more than we can... We have to take care of our interests."

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong had early this year requested for additional treated water for its own use as well as for development projects in the Riau Islands.

The republic gets 546 million litres of water a day from Sungai Johor. Under the Johor River Water Agreement, Singapore is allowed to draw up to 1.1 billion litres (250 million gallons) of water daily from Johor.

However, Sungai Johor does not have the capacity to provide such a large quantity and increase the supply and meet the contractual agreement, the State has allowed Singapore to build a dam across the tributary of Sungai Johor at Sungai Linggiu.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin also said that it was reviewing its three sen per 4,500 litres of water sale to the republic under the 1962 water agreement which was re-negotiated in 1985.

"We will go through the Federal Government and work out a fair price for our water."

He said Johor had gained better terms under the suplementary water agreement signed with Singapore in Kuala Lumpur in November last year.

It is under the agreement that Singapore is building the dam and a water treatment plant costing $164 million in Sungai Linggiu.

He also said that under the agreement, Singapore agreed to allow Johor to develop certain reserves in the Sungai Johor catchment.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin also refuted claims by opposition parties here that the Johor Government was charging Malacca Government more than Singapore.

Johor, under an accord signed last week, has agreed to sell Malacca 158 million litres (35 million gallons) of untreated water a day.

The untreated water would be drawn from Sungai Muar via a 60km pipeline leading to the Durian Tunggal dam in Malacca.

He said Johor was already reviewing the price of water being sold to Singapore and the new price should come up with 30 sen per every 4,500 litres.

He also said that the State hoped to reduce the 30 per cent water lost through seepage and leakage to a manageable 15 per cent.

Commentary Lauds 'Present Economic Prosperity'

BK0204101491 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] It has been reported that Malaysia's economic growth surpassed that of all other ASEAN countries and Asia's newly industrialized nations last year with an output growth of 10 percent—the first double-digit growth for this country since 1976. It is without question that Malaysia's present economic prosperity has been mainly due to the rapid expansion of its manufacturing sector.

Last year the manufacturing sector led other industries accounting for 26.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product or GDP. Under the Sixth Malaysian Plan which commences this year, it is estimated that the manufacturing sector will grow at 11.5 percent annually over the next five years.

It is worthy of mention that the government has approved a set of incentives to promote and assist industrial adjustments in the manufacturing sector. These include reinvestment allowances and, for the first time, a substantial industrial adjustment allowance about to a hundred percent. The entire investment system is being reviewed to make it more relevant to the needs of the manufacturing industry and more effective in accelerating the country's industrial development. It is aimed at providing an environment where private firms find it desirable and affordable to increase their spending on technological improvements. However, manufacturers have been warned not to be overly dependent on government protection and tariff relief on a perpetual basis. Overly protective measures will be gradually phased out.

The objectives, according to the Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, is to set up an efficient, resilient and competitive industrial sector that can operate successfully with very little or no protection.

Malaysia's industrialization strategy is an outward oriented one. This means that a country's economic success will largely depend on its ability to produce quality goods that meet standards demanded by the export market. The country has arrived at a stage where productivity and efficiency [word indistinct] workers have become vital factors that attract potential investors—both domestic and foreign. In this regard, it is encouraging to note that the government has tuned its commitment by granting liberal incentives for manpower training and research and development or R and D. This incentive scheme will go a long way in encouraging both public and private sectors to provide their employees with the necessary training to meet the increasing demands for skilled labor especially in the manufacturing sector.

The result of, that with such encouragement, the manufacturing sector will continue to expand at a satisfactory rate and play its rightful role in the realization of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir's mission of a developed Malaysia by the year 2020. [sentence as heard]

Cambodia

Hun Sen Calls for May Supreme Council Meeting

BK0304051591 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0412 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 3—Hun Sen, member of the Supreme National Council, has sent a letter to French and Indonesian foreign ministers, Roland Dumas and Ali Alatas, co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC], and to Ahmad Rafiuddin, undersecretary general of the United Nations.

The letter, dated April 2, said in full as follows:

"On behalf of the members of the Supreme National Council of the State of Cambodia, I have the honour to inform you that we consider the meeting of the SNC members with the co-chairmen of the PICC in December 1990 a big step forward.

"So, we think that it would be convenient to continue the momentum of peace gained in Paris last December by convening a meeting of the SNC members in conformity with the Paris final communique.

"The members of the Supreme National Council of the State of Cambodia, as they made it known to you in a note on December 22, 1990, are always ready to participate in a meeting of the SNC to discuss the 'remaining question' mentioned in the Paris final communique.

"Since some of us will be very occupied and on mission abroad during April, we wish that the meeting, if it is to take place, should be held in May 1991.

"On the other hand, in a bid to avert the bloodshed and install an atmosphere of confidence in favour of the peace process, we would like to request you to exert your influence in recommending a voluntary cease-fire and the cessation of arms supplies to all conflicting Cambodian groups, which certainly constitute a decisive stage towards peace.

"In thanking you once again for your noble efforts for the Cambodian people's interests, I beg you, excellency, to kindly accept the assurances of my highest considerations."

Phnom Penh Forces Hitting KR Bases From Air

BK0304015791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Apr 91 p 10

[Exerpt] Phnom Penh government forces have pounded Khmer Rouge [KR] bases in western Cambodia with artillery and from helicopter gunships forcing thousands of civilians into Thailand, soldiers and relief workers said yesterday.

The new round of fighting in the drawn-out conflict began on Sunday south of Highway Five when government forces attacked Khmer Rouge artillery bases at Sakaeyoh and Takuangkao with heavy weapons.

The Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government is battling a coalition of three guerrilla groups, of which the Khmer Rouge is the most powerful.

At least two helicopter gunships supported by artillery and multiple-rocket launchers pounded the Khmer Rouge base of Sakaeyoh 15km east of Site Eight refugee camp on the Thai border.

Artillery struck at the Khmer Rouge base at Takuangkao, 20km from Site Eight, Thai military sources said.

Three thousand Khmer Rouge fighters are stationed at the two artillery bases, according to the Thai officers.

"But the Khmer Rouge said they can withstand the attack and have ordered the dependants of soldiers to prepare for evacuation," one officer said.

The firing of big guns was clearly heard in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet throughout Monday, residents said.

"I don't know who is fighting whom but yesterday was rather noisy with artillery fire and last night," a resident said yesterday.

A relief worker said the intensified fighting inside Cambodia was sending new refugees into camps along the border.

"In general we have a high level of new arrivals," he said. "We had 2,000 new arrivals in the one week period ending Friday last week and most of them arrived at Site K," a relief worker said. Site K is a Khmer Rouge-administered camp housing over 10,000 refugees.

"According to the new arrivals there is an intensifying of fighting inside, apparently connected with the fighting for control of the ruby-mining areas. That is why we have a high level of arrivals at Site K," he said. [passage omitted]

Nationwide 1st Quarter Battle Successes Noted

BK0204143691 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] In the first quarter of the year, our Cambodian People's Armed Forces all over the country launched counterattacks against the adventurous, perfidious, and barbarous activities and maneuvers carried out by the genocidal alliance, causing the latter to suffer the most shameful setbacks.

As a matter of fact, our armed forces from all units, in their attacks against the enemy to defend their positions, killed 1,478 troops of the genocidal alliance on the field, wounded 210, and received 488 others who surrendered voluntarily. We seized 944 assorted firearms, 1,842 rounds of all calibers, more than three tonnes of ammunition [as heard], 57 field radios, and a good deal of war materiel. We also destroyed four tanks, 755 hideouts, eight vehicles, and 28 small or large arms caches of the genocidal alliance.

On the Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey province front in January and February, we killed 235, wounded 138, and captured 39 soldiers of the genocidal alliance, and we also received 111 others who surrendered voluntarily. We seized 211 assorted guns, two field radios, 38 hideouts, and a significant quantity of war materiel as well.

On the Banteay Meanchey province front, we put out of action 554 enemy soldiers—261 killed, 265 wounded, 10 captured, and 18 who surrendered voluntarily. We also seized 68 assorted firearms, more than 42 metric tons of ammunition, two tanks, one vehicle, 100 hideouts, and a great deal of war materiel.

On the Kompong Thom province front, we put out of action 450 enemy soldiers—155 killed, 33 wounded, 78 captured, and 214 who surrendered. We seized 717 firearms of various calibers, 250 cases and 160 rounds of artillery shells, and some war materiel, and we destroyed 87 enemy hideouts as well.

U.S. Senator Kerrey Arrives in Phnom Penh

BK0204133891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1054 GMT 2 Apr 91

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 2—A delegation of the U.S. Congress led by Senator Robert J. Kerrey arrived here today by road from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, via Bavet, a town in the eastern province of Svay Rieng, for a two-day visit to Cambodia and for talks with Cambodian leaders on peace moves in this country.

Senator Robert Kerrey is scheduled to meet National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim, Prime Minister Hun Sen, deputy Prime Minister Kong Sam-ol, and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong. He also plans to visit the Tuol Sleng museum of Pol Pot genocide, the former royal palace, and the silver pagoda with Emerald Buddha statue in Phnom Penh.

Senator Robert Kerrey together with hundreds of members of the U.S. Congress signed a petition on November 29, 1989 to U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker on the Cambodian issue, in which they expressed concern that any U.S. effort directly or indirectly aimed at promoting a power-sharing role for the Khmer Rouge—no matter how minimal it might be—would represent an implicit legitimization of a movement the world finds abhorrent and would constitute a profound shift in U.S. policy.

According to NEWSWEEK dated July 30, 1990 the congress was doing its own thinking. The review said:

"Last month the Senate Intelligence Committee voted to halt the annual 10 million in covert aid to the resistance. Sihanouk's reputation was slipping: The General Accounting Office last week revealed that he used 64,249 in humanitarian aid to train orphaned children as a paramilitary force. Congress, suspicious that American aid intended for Sihanouk ended up with the Khmer Rouge and worried by CIA reports of increasing battlefield cooperation between Sihanouk's and Pol Pot's forces, called for change. "The tragedy of our policy" says Democratic Senator John Kerrey, "is that the Khmer Rouge remain the primary beneficiaries."

On March 26, three Khmer Rouge soldiers who had been taken captive in late February and four deserters, together with American-made weapons, were presented at a press conference in Phnom Penh.

A Cambodian officer said at the press conference that it was clear from the Khmer Rouge captives and returnees' testimonies and the weapons seized at Khmer-Thai border areas that most of the military aid given by the United States to the Khmer opposition factions has found its way to the Khmer Rouge.

It is expected that another U.S. Congress delegation to be led by Senator John McCain is to visit Cambodia from April 5-7.

Chea Sim Opens Hospital Annex in Kandal Stoeng

BK0104080691 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] A ceremony was held on the morning of 30 March in Kouk Trap Commune, Kandal Stoeng District, Kandal Province, to inaugurate an annex to the district hospital.

Present in the presidium of the ceremony were, among others, Chea Sim, member of the the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly and of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD]; Comrade Mat Ly, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Assembly and the party Central Committee's Control Commission; Comrade Yim Chhaili, member of the party Central Committee and health minister; and Comrade Vorng Sot, secretary of Kandal Provincial Party Committee. The construction of this new building began in mid 1988 and was completed at the beginning of 1991 with a budget of over 3.5 million riel. The building is 8 meters wide and 32 meters long. It is made of brick with tile roofing and divided into nine rooms, a bathroom, and a toilet. The construction expense was donated by cadres, personnel, workers, and students of the School of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Dentistry with the initiative of Comrade Mi Samedi and the assistance of Comrade Chea Sim, Cambodian compatriots in the United States, and a French (?church).

Speaking on that occasion, Comrade Chea Sim recalled the miserable life of our people under the Pol Pot clique's genocidal regime, particularly the suffering experienced by our people who were tortured and massacred mercilessly by the clique.

Comrade Chea Sim added that during the past 12 years, [words indistinct] have been revived, our people's livelihood has been improved, and social establishments have been built everywhere in response to our people's demands.

Concerning the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem, Comrade Chea Sim stressed the three-point goodwilled stance of our party and government reiterated by the National Assembly during its recent extraordinary session and on the maneuvers of the genocidal alliance which has continued attempting to hinder the search for a genuine peace for Cambodia.

Comrade Chea Sim emphasized that our party and government will continue making efforts to seek a solution to the Cambodian problem, thus quickly bringing peace back to Cambodia in response to the aspirations of the people.

The comrade also called on all people, teachers, monks, health personnel, and cadres and personnel in Kandal Stoeng District to continue holding aloft the banners of national independence, national unity, and international solidarity. To continue struggling valiantly to defend the motherland, taking part in building the armed forces, increasing production, and striving to build national establishments, and particularly to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

After cutting the ribbon to officially inaugurate the new hospital building, Comrade Chea Sim distributed gifts to disabled combatants and 100 families which have served the motherland well.

Rebels Call for Rebuff of Phnom Penh Aid Appeal

BK0304005891 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 2 Apr 91

["Communique of the spokesman of the National Government's Foreign Ministry exposing the maneuver of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and the Phnom Penh puppets in appealing for food from the international community"; place and date not given—read by unidentified announcer]

[Text] On 2 April 1991, the puppets, lackeys of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors in Phnom Penh, at the Hanoi Vietnamese's order moaned that they were short of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of paddy and rice, and fertilizers and fuel. They appealed to the world for assistance. What is the real situation?

1. The shortages of food, paddy, and rice in Cambodia is essentially not due to natural causes.

2. The shortages of food, paddy, and rice in Cambodia is due to the continuation of the war of aggression in Cambodia by the Hanoi Vietnamese using genuine Vietnamese troops—those already in Cambodia and reinforcements sent in from Vietnam—to escalate the war in Cambodia and oppose the framework document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC].

3. In a situation of defeat in Cambodia where the Cambodian people are increasingly opposing their war of aggression, the Vietnamese aggressors and the puppets, Vietnam's lackeys, have used the most fascist and savage methods against Cambodian people everywhere. They plant mines around villages to prevent people from going out to earn their living and carrying out production work. They round up people, particularly in Kompong Thom, Kompong Speu, Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Battambang, Pursat, Kompong Chhnang, Kampot, and Kompong Cham Provinces, and so on, and put them in camps along the roads near their garrisons, thus forcing people to abandon their land. The Vietnamese enemy has been doing this systematically for many years since 1989.

Particularly in the harvest season at the end of 1990 and early 1991, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and the puppets, Vietnam's lackeys, attacked people's villages, plundering paddy and burning homes, production tools, and crops they could not take with them.

The Cambodian people, the Cambodian national resistance forces, and the Cambodian national government appeal to the international community not to provide any aid whatsoever to the puppets, Vietnam's lackeys, in Phnom Penh. This includes food supplies, paddy, rice, or fuel as all this would not reach the Cambodian people. Vietnam will plunder this aid to serve and continue its war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia. We appeal to peace- and independence-loving forces the world over to continue pressuring the Hanoi Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh puppets to accept the 28 Augsust 1990 framework document and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement of the five permanent members to solve Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia quickly so that the Cambodian people can once again have a stable life.

Sihanouk: All Warring Armies Should Dismantle

BK0204022691 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] In an important article published on 30 March 1991, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia and head of the Cambodian national resistance forces, pointed out that the best and most reasonable way to settle the Cambodian problem is to disarm and dismantle all warring armies and let the UN Peacekeeping Force conduct a supervisory role in Cambodia and let the United Nations organize and supervise an election.

Concerning the issue of a future army, the samdech stressed that the new Cambodian Government to emerge from the election has the duty to organize a single national army that does not belong to any particular faction but is a genuinely national army of Cambodia.

Concerning the presence of the Vietnamese troops that are carrying on their war of aggression against Cambodia, the Samdech pointed out that the so-called Cambodian army of the puppets is in fact a Vietnamese army disguised as a Cambodian army. Without the presence of the Vietnamese forces of all categories, this puppet army would have collapsed long ago. It cannot resist the Cambodian national resistance forces alone.

The war raging in Cambodia, whether in Battambang, Kompong Thom, Kampot or any other areas, is not a civil war. It is a war between the Hanoi authorities—the aggressors—and the Cambodian people—the victims of the aggression.

Laos

VNA Reports on Nguyen Van Linh's Activities

BK3003082091 Hanoi VNA in English 0711 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and the Vietnamese delegation to the freshly-concluded Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) were cordially received in Vientiane yesterday by Kaysone Phomvihan, newly-elected chairman of the LPRP and chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers. The Lao leader informed his Vietnamese guests of the success of the LPRP congress and expressed his desire to further develop the special Laos-Vietnam relations. The Vietnamese and Lao party leaders exchanged views on the world and regional situations and stressed the need for Vietnam and Laos to strengthen their special solidarity and friendship, and their mutual cooperation under a new mechanism and in suitable forms to better serve the interests of the two peoples.

During their stay in Vientiane, Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and the Vietnamese party delegation also had a cordial meeting with General Secretary Heng Samrin and the other delegates of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea. Heng Samrin informed the Vietnamese delegation of the Cambodian people's achievements over the past year and reiterated the determination of the party and State of Cambodia to strengthen the special Cambodia-Vietnam relations. For his part, Nguyen Van Linh expressed his joy at the great achievements in all fields of the Cambodian party and revolutionary armed forces. Both sides compared notes on the world and regional situations and discussed matters related to the common struggle for an equitable and reasonable political solution to the Cambodia issue.

Later, the Vietnamese party general secretary received M. Burokiavicus, Politburo member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) Central Committee and head of the CPSU delegation to the Lao congress, who highlighted the Vietnamese people's achievements in the renovation process. Nguyen Van Linh and M. Burokiavicus reaffirmed the common desire to continue to consolidate and develop the solidarity, friendship and allround cooperation between the two parties, two countries and two peoples.

Yesterday evening, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and his party attended a banquet given by the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

PASASON Urges Fulfillment of Party Resolution

BK3103084991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 30 Mar 91

[30 March PASASON editorial: "Let the Entire Country Be United as One To Successfully Fulfill the Resolution of the Fifth Party Congress"]

[Text] Respected listeners, the Fifth National Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] was closed with glorious success yesterday after 3 full days of work. With a creative stand and based on the spirit of solidarity and unanimity in reality on the new changes, the congress has comprehensively reviewed, in a scientific manner, the work of the party and of the people and the achievements as well as the remaining points over the past 5 years. It has correctly assessed the reality of the present socioeconomic situation of our country. On the said basis, the congress has clearly noted and further concretized the direction as put forth by the Fourth Congress of our party. It has adopted various concrete objectives and methods of settling problems in the economic, social, political, national defense, and public security fields, as well as in international relations and cooperation in subsequent years. The congress has made a determination to further carry out comprehensive modification of the party's leadership toward the revolutionary cause. It has reached unanimity on the assessment of the situation and the outlining of various stands and major plans and policies as stipulated in the political report of the LPRP Central Committee which was presented at the congress. The congress has endorsed various major policies on socioeconomic development in the years to come with a view toward effecting a new change to lead the country away from the natural and seminatural economy to a goods-oriented economy in accordance with the marketing mechanism. The policies are also aimed at effecting new changes in the political system, the system of organizing cadres, and the working procedures, with a view toward guaranteeing the fulfillment of the party's leadership role in all social life activities.

This is considered a success of great significance. Based on the new directions, concepts, stands, plans, and policies passed by the congress [words indistinct] over the previous years, our party has put forth various concrete policies and measures aimed at settling various urgent problems of the country in the coming period. To successfully fulfill the said tasks, the congress has noted certain tasks that must be carried out to modify the leadership work [word indistinct], organize to transplant into reality this work in the ranks of the party and the state, and appropriately select and (?arrange) cadres who maintain good virtues, capabilities, and new concepts with a view toward creating revolutionary movements of the masses ever more enthusiastically.

The congress has endorsed the revised rules and regulations of the party, which put an emphasis on the five principles and three directions for the building of the party in the new stage with a view toward fulfilling its historical obligations in the cause of establishing and promoting the popular democratic system in our country. The congress has elected the Fifth Party Central Committee in conformity with the advancing and succeeding characteristics to bring into full play the decision to effect new changes in the party's leadership in accordance with the practical conditions of our country's revolution.

The first session of the Fifth LPRP Central Committee has unanimously elected Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan as chairman of the Fifth LPRP Central Committee and has elected 11 comrades as members of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee. By refusing to run in the election for the Fifth Party Central Committee, but accepting the posts as advisers to the party Central Committee, the elderly comrades in the ranks of the party leaders who have recorded great achievements in wholeheartedly carrying out tasks in service of the party and the people for many decades—namely Comrade Souphanouvong, Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, and Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai—have gloriously shown their revolutionary spirit and the purity of the spirit of being communists. This event has brought about profound sentiments to all delegates to the Fifth Party Congress as well as to the entire party and people.

Representatives of the fraternal parties from Vietnam, Cambodia, the Soviet Union, and China have brought to the congress and our people the sentiments of the spirit of combat solidarity and warm friendship. They all have noted their appreciation and respects to our party and people. They have hailed and supported our party's new direction on modification. These sentiments have consituted a great encouragement for our entire party and people to significantly contribute to the success of the congress.

The Fifth Party Congress has reflected our party's spirit of unique solidarity in leading the people to translate into reality the two strategic tasks. The congress has shown the party's new step of growth and development on the path of new change in concepts, first and foremost, the concepts in the economic field and the changes in the working procedures and organizational system of cadres.

In his speech at the closing ceremony of the congress, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee, said: The success of this congress once again reaffirms the high-level of unity and solidarity, growth, and firmness in all aspects of our party. At the same time, it is the fruit of the overall increase in the intelligence and strong determination of the entire party and our people.

The congress has been closed successfully. In front of us there remains many difficulties and trials. Our tasks in the years to come remain very heavy, and the path on which we are marching is still full of obstacles. However, under the beacon of the resolution of the Fifth Congress, with the strength of the unique solidarity of the entire party and people, with the revolutionary sentiments, and with the strong spirit of creativity and industriousness, our party and people will be able to overcome all difficulties in implementing the resolutuion of the Fifth LPRP Congress [words indistinct] and to contribute to the cause of peace, national independence, (?democracy), and social progress in the world and in the region. Let the entire country be united as one and be determined to successfully implement the resolution of the Fifth Congress.

Editorial Salutes LPRP Founding Anniversary

BK2303060591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1230 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Editorial: "Wholeheartedly Salute and Welcome the 36th Founding Anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party"]

[Text] Today, 22 March, marks the 36th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]. Our various armed forces, together with the entire Lao people, joyously commemorate the great historic day of the founding of the noble, elegant LPRP—vanguard of the Lao working class and genuine Marxist-Leninist party. Throughout the past 36 years, the LPRP has organized and led the entire Lao people to carry out the struggle which has led to the complete liberation, secure defense, and successful building of the country. This is considered a great victory which serves as a symbol of new change in our country after many centuries. Following the victory, our Lao nation has ushered in a new era—an era of independence, freedom, and self-mastery of the entire Lao people.

Under the glorious and bright banner of the party, our various armed forces and people throughout the country, with full confidence in the party leadership, have overcome various obstacles, difficulties, and trials, and have won one victory after another. Noteworthy is that following the victory in 1975, we were entrusted with a new, historic obligation—leading the entire people and armed forces to struggle to defend and build the country to be economically prosperous and to be strong in the field of national defense. (?During this historic period) of the revolution, the entire party strengthened and raised to a high level the endurance and ideals to lead the Lao revolution to systematically overcome obstacles and difficulties, and then to march forward to achieve complete victory.

In face of the difficulties and aftermaths of the destructive war throughout the past nearly three decades, and despite the backward economy, the lack of experiences in building the popular democratic system, and the natural disasters, our party has quickly adopted a correct, creative revolutionary line for each period of the revolution. This line has conformed to the practical conditions and specific points of Laos and has aimed to promote and expand the strength of being owners of the country, enhanced the self-reliant endurance, built prosperity, and concentrated all strenths and initiatives of the entire party and entire people on carrying out the new cause of revolution. Following the combination of maintenance of the endurance and ideals of the entire party with the implementation of the resolutions of the Fourth Party Congress, the party's revolutionary line has been successfully turned into a basic line and guidance for the fulfillment of the objectives for each sector. During the past 15 years of the national defense and construction, facts have proved the talents and clear-sightedness and have reflected the correct line of our party. They have also proved that only with the leadership of the LPRP can the nation achieve prosperity.

At present, the party's leadership role has daily been imbued, even more profoundly, in the daily life of the entire people. It has also been appreciated [words indistinct]. Persisting in overcoming various great difficulties in the previous years, in particular after the implementation of the new concepts in the field of domestic and foreign political affairs, and in particular the new concepts in the economic field over the past few years, we have been able to gradually stabilize the economy, improve the people's living conditions, and guarantee the basic achievement of tranquillity in the country. New potentials have emerged, new changes have been clearly effected in the country, and the people's aspirations have been brightened. The outstanding achievements in the political, economic, and national defense fields that we have won in the recent past have resulted from the correct leadership of the party and the enhancement of the patriotic spirit and revolutionary endurance by party members, workers, farmers, intellectuals, monks, cadres, and combatants who have determinedly done everything possible in the struggle on the basis of the acknowledgment and profound understanding of the party's ideals and the basis of their own spirit of responsibility over the national revolutionary cause. Thus, the nation has been led toward advancement.

After the process of the organizational implementation of the resolutions of the Fourth Party Congress to translate into reality the party's line, and the period of fierce, difficult, and complicated struggle to achieve the revolutionary objectives, now, in 1991, we have commemorated the great historic day—the 36th anniversary of the LPRP—at a time when we are concentrating on launching emulation campaigns to score new achievements to welcome the Fifth Party Congress and amid an atmosphere in which our country has effected a new change in the economic field, a change which has led to the creation of significant factors to help the country achieve prosperity and progress. To lead the revolutionary cause in its march forward toward achieving ever greater and more glorious victories, first and foremost, importance must be attached to promoting and expanding the strength of the party leadership, helping the multiethnic people of all strata profoundly and thoroughly understand the party's line and acknowledge and appreciate the party's roles, determinedly following the party's line and complying with the party's instructions, raising the spirit of responsibility and effectively fulfilling all tasks, enhancing the strength of the party leadership, and encouraging the masses and all mass organizations to [words indistinct] to actively and enthusiastically implement the party's line, plans, and policies through the organization of revolutionary activities in their daily life.

The immediate difficulties and trials are still great. However, the capabilities of the masses are immense and endless. Therefore, the masses should be encouraged to promote and expand their right to self-mastery and take great initiatives to surmount all difficulties so that we will be able to push the great revolutionary cause of the party to gloriously achieve its objectives. The Lao People's Army [LPA], which was founded and has been organized, educated, trained, and fostered by the party since its inception, is highly elated and proud to serve as the force which has gained confidence from the party and people. The growth, development, and strength of our army have resulted from the leadership, education, and training provided by the party, whose members in the ranks of the army has increased with each passing day. Under the party leadership, the LPA has always fulfilled its role and responsibilities as the core for defending the country and contributing to building the country. Our party's (?adoption) of new the mechanism in its leadership toward the armed forces is considered a very glorious honor for the army. With the new mechanism, the army has been increasingly consolidated and strengthened to meet the requirements of the new situation.

Let our army strive to train and temper us in all respects, particularly in the field of revolutionary qualifications and ethics, as well as in the cultural, technical, and command fields, so as to successfully fulfill new tasks as entrusted by the party and state, and to march forward to fulfill the task of fighting and defeating all enemies under all circumstances to securely defend the country and build a strong and prosperous country. Elated and proud over the fine traditions and achievements of the party, which has led the nation to enter the new era of peace and prosperity, our army is determined to further promote and expand the fine traditions of the party, heighten vigilance, uphold the sense of being owners of the country, strengthen the solidarity, strictly implement the regulations and discipline, and successfully fulfill all tasks. Our army is determined to fight, together with the people throughout the country, to win new, ever greater achievements in carrying out the tasks of defending the country and building the economy. The army serves as the sharp tool of the party and the people in the cause of consolidating and perfecting the popular democratic system and maintaining the security of the nation forever.

Indochina's First Business Weekly Published

BK2903015191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Mar 91 p B12

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Vientiane—Indochina's first business weekly was launched here last month to provide much needed information on the potential for business in this landlocked country.

"What is unique about this weekly is that it's the first newspaper in this backward region that attempts to focus on economic and social news," said Somchit Thipthiangchan, editor of VIENTIANE THURAKIT-SANGKHOM.

The weekly was the brainchild of Somchit, who has been dreaming of editing a paper that will report on non-political topics. "We have here all kinds of papers and magazines that report political events and news about youth," he said.

Elsewhere in Indochina, economic and business news are hard to find, according to Somchit. In Vietnam, he said only economic monthly magazines in English can be found. In the case of Cambodia, it is not available at all.

It took at least four months of planning to come up with sufficient staffers and financial arrangements, he said, pointing out that at first he hoped to put together money from colleagues and invest in the weekly. But that failed. "My friends were not convinced that it was a good enterprise," he said.

Somchit, 47, who is also editor-in-chief of VIENTIANE MAY, decided to go it alone, investing about a half million kips, or about Bt [baht] 17,800 to launch the paper. The money was used to employ eight staffers and reporters exclusively for the weekly paper.

At the moment, he said the weekly is operating at a loss because of the high cost of printing. "In the long run, I am sure that 50 per cent of the newspaper space will be taken up by advertising, which provides the bulk of the income. The ad rate is very low because the paper is new in the market, when it is well established, the ad rate will increase," he said.

The weekly now has about 650 subscribers both within and outside the country and a few hundred on sale in Vientiane. Somchit pointed out that his paper is popular among foreign and Thai businessmen who are hungry for information about business opportunities in Laos.

A few weeks ago, the paper created big headline news for several vernacular Thai newspapers which copied the story from VIENTIANE THURAKIT-SANGKHOM when it printed an article about the booming business in dog trading across the Mekong River.

The paper said Thai businessmen have long been buying dogs from Laos for consumption and re-export. It said on an average day at least 200 Laotian dogs are sold to Thai traders in Nakhon Phanom, where the dogs are processed. Dog skins are exported to Canada, their penises and testicles are bought by the Taiwanese for medical purposes. Dog meat is consumed by Thais, said the report.

The 12-page weekly carries the latest news on government's projects and development programmes as well as reports on problems of investment and conducting business in Laos. "Sometimes foreign businessmen do not know the persons to talk to," he said, "Then, they write to us and we will give them the answer."

Each issue publishes the country's financial situation, its exchange rates and prices of basic necessities on the market in page one. "It has become a must for the Laotians to know international financial movements," Somchit said.

The government recently loosened the control over foreign currency exchange. Laotians can now own dollars and save or exchange them for other currencies. Kip is one of the most stable currencies in Indonesia.

VIENTIANE THURAKIT-SANGKHOM also includes reports and reviews of sports and literary works within the country. Some new and young writers also find the weekly, which is not strictly controlled by the government, a new platform to express their views.

At the end of last year, PASASON issued a Sunday edition, which became an instant hit because the paper ran articles contributed by freelancers and progressive writers.

Somchit pointed out that although he finances the weekly, the government is still the owner "because in Laos there is no such thing as a privately run paper." There are two daily state-run newspapers, PASASON and VIENTIANE MAY, and scores of weekly and monthly magazines competing for the population of four million.

In recent years, the government has allowed more freedom to newspapers as part of the new policy of "chintanakanmay"—or renovation—to adopt a market-oriented economic policy that has gradually replaced the centrally controlled one.

Somchit said the weekly has recently tried to report on Thailand's economic growth and lessons that the Laotian businessmen can learn from it. "Our paper has reported on the problem of fixing the price of rice in Thailand," he said.

Drug Transport Suspects Released in Savannakhet

BK2503102891 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] According to a report from Savannakhet Province, on 15 March the people's court of Savannakhet Province reached a verdict on two suspects on a charge of transporting 500 kg of compressed marijuana valued at more than 6 million kip. The drug was seized by police authorities from Thao Pha and Thao Dom, villagers of Tha Phosai village, Pak Se Bangfai canton, Saibouli District, Savannakhet Province, on 10 October 1990 while the two suspects were transporting the narcotics on a 40-seat passenger boat sailing from Pak Se Bangfai canton and heading toward Don Kiang village, Nong Bok District, Khammouane Province.

In their testimony, the two suspects informed the police that the drugs did not belong to them. They said that a roof tile dealer gave them 300 Thai baht to transport the cargo for him. As a result of the testimony given by the suspects, the people's court decided to release the two persons because they had no intention of committing the offense. The boat was also returned to them. The seized marijuana was subsequently destroyed in the presence of customs police and representatives of the local administration concerned.

Philippines

Ramos on Reduction of U.S. Presence by One-Third

HK0304115191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos told Japanese politicians that the current U.S. military presence in the Philippines will be reduced by one-third. Secretary Ramos is presently visiting Japan. He delivered a speech to Liberal Democratic Party parliamentarians where he also announced that any new agreement concluded will only be valid until 1998.

U.S. Transfers Facilities From Camp John Hay

HK0304081191 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] U.S. authorities have begun transferring some of their facilities at Camp John Hay in Baguio City to other U.S. installations in the country. This followed a ceremony signaling the symbolic withdrawal of the U.S. 628th Support Squadron based in the camp in Baguio City. The ceremony also coincided with the start of Philippine administration and control over the camp.

Even though the formal turnover of the camp will take place on 1 July, the U.S. 13th Air Force based at Clark Air Base has taken over temporary duties and responsibilities over the personnel at Camp John Hay.

Meanwhile, Cordillera Regional Command Chief Juanito Aquias affirmed that proper steps have been taken to ensure the security of Camp John Hay.

Manglapus, Estanislao To Study Bases Proposal

HK0204122191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 2 Apr 91

[By Tanny Rodriguez]

[Excerpt] President Aquino has asked Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao to study the proposal for the final middle- round compromise regarding the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. bases. She requested both secretaries meet with the 40-man parliamentarian block.

The proposal was forwarded by 25 representatives led by Congressman Jose Devenecia, who met with the president. According to Devenecia, their proposal is based on an extensive nonbudget U.S. compensation, and on the gradual phaseout or removal of the 9 percent import levy. [passage omitted]

Finance Secretary on Flexibility in Bases Talks

HK0304052391 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The Aquino government may allow the U.S. bases to stay over seven years if Washington agrees to the Philippine proposal of a $700-million to $1 billion compensation package.

Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said that if the U.S. Government will be flexible, President Aquino will also be flexible regarding the stay of the bases. But he clarified that the Philippine compensation proposal of $700 million to $1 billion would entail the creation of a provision that would reduce the government's foreign debt and strengthen the country's international reserves.

The issue on compensation of duration [as heard] will be discussed in the last round of talks between the Philippines and the United States.

Parliamentary Bloc Endorses Consultations on Bases

HK0304045091 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 3 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] The 40-strong Parliamentarian's Bloc in the House of Representatives yesterday expressed support for the Executive department's initiative to hold consultations with the citizenry regarding components of the treaty to be forged between the Philippines and the United States on the continued stay of the latter's military facilities here.

In pushing of the implementation of consultative processes even before ratification of the treaty by the Senate, the bloc noted, however, that the consultations should not be conducted through the use of public funds.

"I think all of us are for what the President stands for," Rep. Francisco Sumulong of Rizal, House Majority Floor Leader and head of the coalition, told Palace newsmen after meeting with President Aquino on the matter.

Even as he stressed that "we are supportive of the President in seeking consultations before submitting the treaty to the Senate," Mr Sumulong explained that such consultations should not be "supported financially by Government, but from other sources."

In the same meeting, the bloc also put forth a proposal by Rep. Jose de Venecia of Pangasinan, chairman of the House committee on foreign affairs, for the Philippine bases negotiating panel to seek "nonbudgetary aspects" in the compensation package.

As enunicated by Mr Sumulong, the de Venecia proposal enables the Philippines to secure new money inflows "without having to beg from the American Government," since its mechanics negate the need for the approval of the U.S. Congress.

In response, Mrs Aquino directed Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao to study the proposal's feasbility with Mr de Venecia.

Officials Call Bases Compensation 'Deceptive'

HK0304051991 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 Apr 91 pp 1, 8

[By Tony Bergonia]

[Text] Vice President Salvador Laurel and Sen. Rene Saguisag yesterday accused Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao of deceiving the Filipino people by lumping together all foreign aid and trade concessions to make the bases compensation look big.

"When the PAP (Philippine Assistance Program) pledges are lumped with the base rentals we're just making it big for ourselves. So who are we fooling?" Laurel said in a press statement.

"It was a most deceptive propaganda," Saguisag said in an interview. "What he (Estanislao) failed to mention was that when he talked about $1 billion (for the use of the bases), that included everything—all aid from international donors and all trade with the U.S."

The two officials were reacting to Estanislao's claim that the United States was open to the Philippine demand for a higher compensation, amounting to as much as $1 billion a year, in exchange for a 12-year extension of the bases agreement.

After a trip to the U.S., Estanislao told reporters on Monday the U.S. was willing to provide a compensation mix consisting of economic and military assistance plus debt reduction, low-interest loans from international financial institutions, and trade concessions.

Laurel said Estanislao was "sabotaging" the Philippine position in the bases negotiation. "Estanislao should not interfere at this point in the bases negotiations because he is jsut weakening our position," Laurel said.

Saguisag said Estanislao's claims were intended to railroad the retention of the U.S. facilities. He said the Philippines did not have to host the bases to avail itself of low-interest loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Saguisag also said the country was falling into the trap of counting all trade between the two countries as part of the compensation package. "Traders who make it in the American market because of sheer talent would now be listed as beneficiaries of the continued presence of the bases," he said.

U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager said his government's position on the compensation formula announced by Estanislao will be known on Friday. Schrager said progress had been made on the difficult issues of compensation and the duration of a new bases agreement although "there is still more work to be done." But he said he was confident an agreement would be concluded when the Philippine and U.S. panels resume negotiations starting April 10. "We sincerely appreciate the efforts that Secretary Estanislao is making to resolve the compensation issue," Schrager said.

Diplomatic sources said the "compromise formula" announced by Estanislao conforms with the U.S. position of discussing overall U.S. assistance, including economic and military aid, instead of "concentrating" on bases compensation.

Sen. Ernesto Herrera criticized the Philippine panel for not taking into consideration the plight of Filipino workers in the U.S. facilities. Herrera, chairman of the Senate labor committee, said he was told the panel set aside some proposals made by Filipino workers' groups. One consequence of this, he said, is that hundreds of Filipino workers in Camp John Hay and other facilities turned over to the Philippine government are in danger of losing their jobs.

Meanwhile, a group of 40 congressmen led by Rep. Jose de Venecia urged President Aquino to ask for a higher "non-budget" compensation for the bases. Lourdes Siytangco, assistant press secretary, said President Aquino was receptive to the idea and directed Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and Estanislao to discuss the proposal with the congressmen. However, details of the proposal were not made public.

At the same meeting, the congressmen also called for a gradual phaseout or the abolition of the nine-percent import levy. But Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos said the levy would be reduced to four to five percent possibly next month.

Bases Panel Seeking To Protect Workers' Rights

HK0304051191 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 3 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] The Philippine bases panel will push for the inclusion of provisions protecting the rights of Filipino workers into any new treaty entered into with the Americans.

The move will, in effect, consolidate the Bases Labor Agreement [BLA] into the mother treaty.

Bases negotiator Raul Rabe, Department of Foreign Affairs director-general for American affairs, said in a hearing yesterday of the Senate committee on labor, employment and human resources development: "We will still ask for more direct provisions in the mother treaty" concerning the labor sector. He said the Philippine panel had on several occasions raised the issue but the Americans questioned the move which will render the current BLA, signed in 1989 and set to expire in 1993, inutile.

Roberto Flores, president of the Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Association-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, said including labor provisions in the new treaty will assure strict compliance of the same instead of a mere executive agreement. Acting Tourism Secretary Rafael M Alunan III, former panel spokesman, said the panel is working to include the protection of workers' rights in the new treaty which will be the guiding principle in the BLA's renewal in 1993. He said existing base workers will be rehired since they have the technical expertise, but they may not get the same compensation from the Philippine Government.

As this developed, Senator Ernesto F. Herrera, committee chairman, said Government should see to it that workers who will be retrenched following the transfer of John Hay Air Station from the U.S. Government to the Philippine Government should be given their mid-year bonuses as employees of the U.S. federal government.

Mr Flores said workers not covered by regular appropriations will be terminated by April 30 even if the turnover date is still in July.

Mr Rabe said Government will take diplomatic steps to ensure that salaries of base workers will be given them under the BLA.

Mr Alunan said Government is now taking stock of the remaining fixtures in John Hay which will be left by the U.S. since they were told in no uncertain terms that all removable items will be taken out and transferred to either Clark Air Base, Subic Naval base or to Singapore.

Program Airs Sectional Views on U.S. Bases

HK0104071691 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0030 GMT 01 April 91

[From the "Liberty in Action" program, hosted by Joe Taruc, with guests Butz Abad, secretary general of the National Peace Conference; Jaime Cura, chairman of the National Coalition for Transparency; and Noel Soriano, former national security adviser, regarding the U.S. military bases issue; italicized passages in English]

[Excerpts] [Taruc] What is the National Peace Conference's stand on the U.S. military bases issue?

[Abad] The participants in the National Peace Conference were unanimous in saying that we have to assert our national sovereignty. And with this in mind, it was also unanimously agreed that the military bases should be removed from the Philippines. Now, there is some debate on when the bases should be removed. Eleven out of the 17 sectors decided that the military bases should be removed by 16 Septemebr 1991. [passage ommitted]

[Cura] You know Joe, we met last week. *It was an urgent meeting given the kind of developments that we are reading about.* And we decided to reaffirm the principles wherein we are in agreement. *For example, we affirmed the principle that the Filipino people must assert their fundamental right to political, economic, and cultural sovereignty. And that, such sovereignty is nonnegotiable. Number two, we also resolved to seek the immediate enforcement of the nuclear weapons-free provision of the 1987 Constitution. We resolved to seek and work for the immediate implementation of programs, utilize the reverted base lands with special priorities to indiginous people, farmers, and urban poor. The plan should also contain provisions for workers who may be dislocated by the removal of the bases.* What we mean is this, the plan on what to do with the bases should come from us and should not be dictated to us by foreigners. Second, our recognized needs should be the basis for our negotiations, and not that of other countries. *They can be very generous, and we were taken for granted.* So, our position is that they must go. [passage ommitted]

[Taruc] On the point of national security, you are the former national security adviser. What effects does the current development in the ongoing talks have?

[Soriano] I think, just as I was saying to Jimmy and Butz a while ago, the Gulf war had a big effect. When I was still on the National Security Council, we decided that the bases here in the country are really very important to the United States. They thought the Gulf war would happen at the end of this decade and they were preparing for that, and the bases here were *very key*. But the Gulf war has already happened. *Never did they expect that at this time, they would have a big military force right there in the Gulf area.* They are already there. Schwarzkopf was there and their companions too, including some Arabian countries like the Saudis, who are with them already. Egypt is also with them already. In other words, the crucial, critical situation shifted to the Gulf area. So I think the value of the importance of the bases for the United States has already gone down. They are already there. Why would they still need us? So in my opinion, their hardline position relative to the bases here may also soften. [passage ommitted]

Defense Secretary Ramos Leaves for Japan 2 Apr

HK0304053791 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 3 Apr 91 p 6

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos left yesterday for a five-day visit to Tokyo in an attempt to win the confidence of Japanese political and business leaders in the stability of the country.

Ramos will be meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, prior to his state visit to the Philippines, and with the senior leaders of Japan's ruling political party, the Liberal Democratic Party. He is also scheduled to meet with Japanese Defense Minister Yukihido Ikeda and tour facilities of the Japanese Self-Defense Agency.

Presidential Aspirants Seek Mrs Marcos' Support

HK0104141091 Quezon City MALAYA in English 1 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[By Shalom Mapagu]

[Text] Emissaries of practically all presidential aspirants have asked Mrs Imelda Marcos for her endorsement and support in 1992, lawyer Antonio Coronel said in an overseas call yesterday.

Coronel also said Mrs Marcos has not made up her mind on whether to run for president in 1992 but that she would "assess the situation" once she is back in the country.

Coronel, who represents Mrs Marcos, declined to name those who had communicated or made feelers to Mrs Marcos, but a member of her legal staff identified them as Vice President Salvador Laurel, Edurado Cojuangco Jr, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Sen Juan Ponce Enrile and Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos.

Coronel also urged the Commission on Elections [Comelec] to work out procedures that would allow Filipinos in political exile as well as overseas contract workers to exercise their right of suffrage. "It is an inherent right of all Filipino citizens," he said. He made the proposal in reaction to reports that Mrs Marcos would not be allowed to vote in 1992.

Another lawyer in Mrs Marcos' staff who declined to be identified said Laurel has directly communicated with Mrs Marcos to seek her support. However, Laurel's spokesman, Enrique Gutierrez, denied this, saying "there is no such plan." Gutierrez said during Laurel's "private visits" with Mrs Marcos, "they talked about a lot of things but not political matters."

In the case of Cojuangco, Fernando Barican, president of Partido Filipino which is identified with the businessman, would neither confirm nor deny the reported call for her support. "It's not really clear what her (Mrs Marcos') plans are. I'm not even sure if she would ultimately be allowed to return," Barican said.

Members of the Marcos household, the source said, were persuading her to support Cojuangco. The same source also noted Enrile's "links" with Mrs Marcos through "members of his family." As for Ramos, the source said, he is being promoted by "retired military generals." He did not elaborate.

A newspaper publisher and a former labor official, on the other hand, have been interceding for Santiago, he said. The rest of the presidential aspirants mentioned were unavailable for comment.

The source said the aspirants first "wanted to be sure of her own political plans, knowing this would directly affect their own." He added: "Many of them are aware that they will have to spend at least P [Philippine pesos] 500 million to P1 billion to mount a campaign for the presidency and no man would sink so much money in a race he knows he would lose."

On Coronel's appeal to the Comelec, he said Mrs Marcos is determined to register as voter through any suitable means such as sending her registration papers by mail. "The Constitution does not prohibit this," Coronel said.

The Comelec earlier said Mrs Marcos, who was not a registered voter in previous elections, could not run for president once Congress enacts a bill requiring voter's registration for candidates six months before the election, and another bill allowing registration of overseas workers at embassies abroad.

Coronel said the Comelec is empowered to draft guidelines and mechanisms to facilitate the registration and voting of Filipino citizens abroad.

Ramos, Enrile Deny Seeking Support

HK0104050491 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 1 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[By Merlinda Manalo, Ros Manlangit, and Bienvenido M. Perez]

[Excerpts] Former First Lady Imelda R. Marcos cannot be arrested when she returns from more than five years in exile, lawyer Antonio Coronel said over the weekend. As this developed, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, who had been named with three other presidential hopefuls as having sought financial support and endorsement from Mrs. Marcos, issued separate statements denying the report which was carried in several national dailies yesterday. [passage omitted]

Enrile said he had not authorized anyone to contact Mrs. Marcos in New York for any discussions either about political matters in Manila or his presidential bid in 1992 under the opposition Nacionalista Party. "Like any presidential aspirant, I would welcome the support of anyone who believes in my cause, but I have not authorized anyone much less any member of my family to talk with Mrs. Marcos," Enrile said.

In 1986, Enrile had precipitated the downfall of the Marcos regime by leading a military mutiny that triggered the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] "People Power" Revolution.

Ramos, Enrile's partner in that fateful 1986 mutiny, branded as "pure fabrication" the reported claim that he too was seeking Mrs. Marcos's support to firm up his 1992 presidential plans, financially or otherwise. Ramos wrote the editor of a morning daily, which carried the report, to clarify that he has never sought the help or the endorsement of Mrs. Marcos.

Enrile also protested any reference to any member of his family as being involved in opening contacts with Mrs. Marcos for the 1992 campaign. He said the last time a member of his family saw Mrs. Marcos was during the funeral in Hawaii of President Marcos, a couple of weeks after the latter's death in September 1989, which Cristina, the senator's wife, attended.

"I would like to know who among the members of my family, my relatives, or my friends have contacted Mrs. Marcos on political matters, because as far as I am concerned, I have not asked anyone to talk to her on political matters," Enrile said.

Despite his role in the 1986 downfall of the Marcoses, Enrile is known to be sympathetic to a move allowing Mrs. Marcos to return to the Philippines to bury the remains of her late husband and finally allow the Marcos family to live peacefully in the country.

The Aquino administration has repeatedly turned down requests from the Marcos family that they be allowed to go back, citing supposed dangers to national security. Former Samar governor Tomas Ricalde noted that it is unjust for government to stop Mrs. Marcos from returning to her own country. Incumbent Tacloban vice-mayor Rufino Reyes (Liberal) agreed with him and added that the general sentiment of Leytenos is that "legally she should be allowed, as a Filipino, to return." Whatever faults she may have committed, he said, "should be answered here." Reyes disclosed that there already have been several requests sent by the people of Leyte and their representatives calling for Mrs. Marcos' return.

A prominent Leyte-based businessman, who requested anonymity, pointed out that most businessmen in the province would like Mrs. Marcos to run as the province's governor to enable her to concentrate her much-touted resources to her provincemates' welfare alone. The source said businessmen in Leyte see economic prosperity ahead for the province if she runs for the Leyte governorship.

Reyes, on the other hand, emphasized that "personally, she has a good chance of winning," but pointed out that she should "give others a chance" and "live peacefully" as an ordinary civilian. It is true, Reyes said, that Leytenos owe Imelda a great debt for what she has done for the province. The province, from the urban centers down to those communities in the hinterlands, has been wide networks of paved roads and other basic infrastructure built under Mrs. Marcos' patronage.

Reyes said the promise that Leyte's economy will perk up once Mrs. Marcos is back in power is actually "not clear" from the Leytenos' general sentiment since most people acknowledge that there was too much infusion of resources during the Marcos regime which ultimately amounted to little help to opening up increased trade and investment opportunities for Leyte, unlike those in Cebu.

Even if the economy in Leyte does liven up as Mrs. Marcos' political machinery is revived, there are fears that the political campaigning may also hurt the communities here.

Do the Romualdezes still have real political clout in the province? Reyes said that among the high-profited Romualdezes of yore, it is only Alfredo Romualdez who still has several visible business concerns in the province, including: the Balwarte Beach Resort in Barangay San Jose, Tacloban (the sequestration of which was recently lifted by the Philippine Commission on Good Government), run by the Romualdez-owned Dio Island Resort Inc., and the Island Development Bank, which now handles various livelihood development loan packages.

For the simple folk of Leyte, it does not really matter whether Imelda runs as provincial governor, Tacloban mayor, or President of the Philippines, or even if she has wide funding support. Those randomly interviewed by NEWSDAY in the streets of Tacloban indicated that they intend to rally to Mrs. Marcos' side to seek the fulfillment of promises of peace and prosperity she made before the events of February 1986 overtook her.

Biazon Downplays Bombings; Metro Manila on Alert

HK0304051391 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 3 Apr 91 p 2

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] General Rodolfo G. Biazon, Armed Forces chief of staff, yesterday downplayed the implications of a bomb explosion that happened near the main gate of Camp Crame Monday night, which was blamed on right-wing forces.

"Certainly, we are confident that they (right-wing forces) lack the capability to mount another coup or major destabilization move," Biazon told defense reporters.

A C-4 plastic bomb went off at 9:45 p.m. Monday near a waiting shed a few meters from the main gate of Camp Crame, the general headquarters of the Philippine National Police (PNP). No one was reported hurt in the blast and the damage was minimal.

The Explosive, Ordinance and Disposal Team (EODT) of the PNP diffused several sticks of dynamite found inside a shoulder bag hanging on the Crame wall. Crame authorities immediately shut all camp gates soon after the powerful explosion, which also caused traffic problems.

Chief Superintendent Marino Filart of the Capital Region Command (Capcom) ordered his men to be vigilant soon after the explosion occurred. "I have alerted all the police units in the streets to be on the lookout to prevent similar explosions in other parts of the metropolis" from happening, he said, adding that there was a "strong possibility" that the explosion was the handiwork of the rebel military men.

Citing an intelligence report, Biazon said the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] received reports that communist rebels have brought into the metropolis at least 30 pieces of explosives from the provinces.

For his part, Brigadier General Thelmo Cunanan, chief of the National Capital Regional Defense Command (NCRDC), also alerted all military commanders in Metro Manila to intensify the military's visibility in the streets to thwart possible bombing attempts.

"We have been getting intelligence reports about the rebels' attempt to mount possible bombings (in the metropolis)," he said. "Part of the supposed plan includes business establishments as possible targets, apparently to disrupt the economy."

To prevent further bombings, Cunanan said, the military is currently conducting counterintelligence work and has intensified its coverage to include activities of the left. "I don't think it will be in the magnitude of the spate of bombings that occurred late last year," he said.

Biazon also echoed Cunanan's statement, saying "we have uncovered reports of another wave of bombings last year but there are no indications now that they (rebels) will go into this in a series or in an extensive way."

Metro Manila was rocked by several bomb explosions which started August last year, which the military completely blamed on the right- wing forces out to create an atmosphere of fear. But most of the right-wing elements suspected to be behind the spate of bombings last year were already arrested by the military in its intensified operations to capture coup plotters.

Troops Sent to Cotabato; Kidnapped Priest Sighted

HK0304053591 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 Apr 91 pp 1, 11

[By Danny Petilla and Ali Macabalang]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday sent Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos to Cotabato City and ordered the military to send more troops to an area beleaguered by bandits who have kidnapped 21 persons so far this year.

Ms. Aquino ordered a 500-man Marine battalion pulled out of Davao City and deployed to Cotabato and Maguindanao to reinforce local troops who had appeared helpless in stopping the kidnappings. The deployment of fresh troops was requested by local leaders.

In Cotabato, the military said villagers had sighted the French Catholic priest Yves Caroff, one of the six still being held by kidnappers, dashing fears that he may have been killed by his abductors.

Orbos will fly to Cotabato City this morning with Philippine National Police Director General Cesar Nazareno. Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, Armed Forces chief of staff, also left for Cotabato yesterday to verify reports from local military commanders that 22 military and police personnel were involved in the kidnappings.

At least 21 persons have been kidnapped by bandits in the area, including six who are still being held by their abductors. Among them are Father Caroff, three professors of the Mindanao State University [MSU] in Maguindanao and two businessmen.

Orbos said he will not negotiate with kidnappers but will act as the personal emissary of the President to look into complaints of local executives that some military men and police personnel were involved in the kidnappings.

Rep. Michael Mastura (LDP, [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] Maguindanao), who personally briefed Ms. Aquino on the kidnappings, said most of the kidnappers were soldiers and policemen still in active service. "This is the reason why we are going there to find out whether or not there is basis to such a claim," Orbos said.

Malacanang's intervention on the problem was sought by Mastura, Catabato City Mayor Ludovico Badoy and Catholic Archbishop Philip Smith.

Maj. Gen. Guillermo Flores, Armed Froces vice chief of staff said in Malacanang that Ms. Aquino has ordered the military to speed up the dispatch of troops from the 1st Marine battalion in Davao City to Cotabato. "There is really tension in the area because of the spate of kidnappings and therefore there is need for an increased military presence," said Flores after receiving the order from Ms. Aquino in Malacanang.

Maj. Gen. Gumercindo Yap, Southern Command chief, earlier ordered the transfer of the 500-man Marine contingent to beef up forces now in Cotabato.

Mastura also reported to Ms. Aquino that the recent kidnappings, especially that of Father Caroff, could be politically motivated. "The latest incident involving the Oblate priest has some kind of political undertones," Mastura said. "It could mean that a group is raising money to fund certain activities," Mastura added. He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, the military raised the reward for the capture of the Cotabato kidnappers from P [Philippine peso] 100,000 to P500,000.

Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos said the reward will be given to any person who will provide information leading to the arrest of Abogado Gado alias Mubarak, leader of the kidnapping syndicate believed to have obtained some P12 million in ransom from families of victims, mostly wealthy Filipino-Chinese businessmen.

Mubarak's group is believed to be holding MSU professors Marino Ridao, Juan Sarabia and Arnel Toldeo. Ramos made the announcement shortly before leaving for Tokyo for a five day-visit.

Meanwhile, the military said villagers have reported the location of the kidnap gang holding Father Caroff. This raised hopes that the preist is alive, contrary to fears fanned by the kidnappers' silence. They also said the abductors still holding the three MSU professors have joined the captors of the 66-year-old French priest.

Negotiators failed anew to obtain the freedom of the professors as the second ultimatum set by the abductors yesterday lapsed. But Sultan Blah Mama, chief negotiator for the release of the three professors, said the abductors have agreed to reduce their P5-million ransom damand to half a million. He said the families of the three professors have asked the abductors to extend their ultimatum to another week.

The head of a small Army detachment in the town of South Upi (Timanan) in Maguindanao said Father Caroff was sighted twice over the weekend in the foothills bordering South Upi, Palayan and Dinaig towns in Maguindanao. He said Father Caroff was seen mounted on a horse and surrounded by heavily armed men at the village traversed by a creek and 75 kilometers southwest of Cotabato City.

Alfonso also said that Caroff's captors, identified only as Kumanders [Commanders] "Tora-Tora" and "Kagi Digo" were joined at the village by the abductors of the three professors led by Mubarak.

A military intelligence officer said Mubarak's group was forced to seek refuge at the village when pusuing government troops drove them away from another village in Maguindanao after a brief shootout. Together, he said, the two kidnapping groups have a force of 100 men equipped with heavy firepower, including a B-40 antitank gun.

General Yap said the Army is ready to launch a full-scale operation against the group of Mubarak once given the go-signal by the Catholic Church, which had requested a stop in military operations pending negotiations for the release of Father Caroff.

PNP Chief Orders Activation of Command in South

HK0204044691 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 2 Apr 91 p 14

[By Robert Requintina]

[Text] Director General Cesar P. Nazareno, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, ordered yesterday the provisional activation of the PNP Regional Command Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (RCARMM) and the resectoring of provincial commands in Mindanao.

Nazareno said the provisional activation of the RCARMM is based on "tactical necessity" to streamline the deployment of PNP forces in Mindanao. The RCARMM will also assume command of active operations against terrorists and kidnap gangs in Maguindanao and Cotabato City to ensure the smooth transfer of personnel and equipment of Regional Command 12 to its new headquarters, Nazareno said. Senior Superintendent Milton Tiburcio is chief of the new regional command, Nazareno, said.

Superintendent Cris L. Maralit, PNP spokesman, said the activation of the PNP regional command for the ARMM [Autonomous Region in Mulsim Mindanao] also prompted the resectoring of several provinces in the four other regional commands in Mindanao.

Under the new setup, Regional Command 9 in Zamboanga City will be responsible for the Basilan, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga del Sur provincial commands and the Zamboanga and Iligan Metropolitan District Commands.

The Regional Command 10 headquarters in Cagayan de Oro City will be composed of the Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental and Surigao del Norte provincial commands.

On one hand, Regional Command 11 will comprise the Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, and Surigao del Sur provincial commands and the Davao metropolitan District Command. The headquarters is in Catitipan, Davao City.

PNP Uncovers CPP-NPA Summer Offensive Plans

HK0104110691 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 Apr 91

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] The intelligence community of the Philippine National Police [PNP] revealed today that the communist rebels will intensify their offensive operations this summer by launching secret attacks in the city through the bombing of government buildings and the undertaking of assassinations of high-ranking police and military officials, as part of their rebellion against the Aquino administration.

The communist rebels are also targeting some foreign businessmen who are extending their support to the present administration. This was known through an intelligence report that was received by the PNP following the explosion of two Mercedes-Ben z cars and a pajero owned by Eduardo Lin, president of the Makati Stock Exchange, when his house in Wakwak Village, Mandaluyong was targeted two days ago in celebration of the 22d founding anniversary of the New People's Army [NPA].

Since 29 March 1990, it has been the agenda of the movement to reinvigorate the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA by launching more forceful and intensified offensives against the government. It is also the aim of the CPP-NPA to let its movement recover from its great loss from the police and the military during the past years which saw a series of captures of high-ranking officials from the communist movement in the country. The succeesful offensives of the PNP and other agencies of the military dealt a great blow to the NPA. It was also known that the communist rebels comprising the Alex Buncayo Brigade [ABB] in Metro Manila were pulled out and NPA members trained from the mountains in preparation for their summer offensives were sent instead. The former members of the ABB were pulled out because their operation in Metro Manila was foiled.

Concurrently, PNP Director General Nazareno mobilized Colonel Wilfredo Cruz, chief of the Police Intelligence Security Command, to monitor the movements of the NPA rebels in Metro Manila, capture them, and abort their summer offensive operations in the city.

Leopoldo Abilangan alias Ka [Comrade] Hector from the Luzon guerrilla committee formally supervised the rebels' summer offensive preparations per the instruction of Romulo Kintanar, the overall head of the NPA general command. Among the targets of the CPP-NPA are the businessmen who are supporting the government and their former colleagues who have returned to the fold of society. They are also targeting officials of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce whom they claim are controling businesses and causing economic depression.

NPA Deplores AFP Operations in Northern Luzon

HK0104052891 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 1 Apr 91 p 20

[Text] A spokesman of the New People's Army (NPA) in Northern Luzon deplored over the weekend the Armed Forces military operations in Abra, Kalinga-anayao and Ifugao that have "dislocated 25,000 minorities from January to March, 1991," killing almost 220 people including 94 children in Marag and Conner Valleys."

Nilo Libertad of the Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Command of the NPA in Northern Luzon said "The people and the NPA fought back and in the first three months of 1991 we wiped out 200 [word indistinct] troopers, 230 were wounded in action, and destroyed several vehicles damaging 3 helicopters, confiscating 50 firearms including 4 LMG [words indistinct] M60 and 1 mortar."

Libertad, who issued the statement of the NPA Northern Luzon [NL] on the 22nd anniversary of the rebel army March 29, added: "The people of NL specially in the Cordilleras and Eastern Sierra Madre ranges withstood and drove back repeated AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] attacks since 1986. The AFP obliterated almost 500 barrios, uprooted 600,000 people and killed or maimed 600 masses since 1986 surpassing the brutal record of the past Marcos Hitlerite Dictatorship. But the latest Coryite armed minions dislocated 25,000 minorities in Abra, Kalinga-Apayao and Ifugao from January to March 1991 killing almost 220 people including 94 children in Marag and Conner Valleys during "Saliddumay" and "Red Lips" operations."

The statement, which was sent thru the mails, also paid tribute to all martyrs and "those who until now sacrifice their all especially those in Marag, Allig, Conner-Cabugao, Abra, Paco, Sinandungan, Bassit and Dakkel nga Ayos and other areas of Northern Luzon."

Libertad said the command celebrates the NPA anniversary with great pride, greater determination and high hopes in achieving victory within this decade marking the hundredth year of our people's struggle against the Spanish and American Imperialism.

He added "the outstanding achievement of the NPA this year is that we have foiled the logging companies and their AFP cohorts from cutting any single tree in the forest areas of the Northern Cordillera."

The NPA also implemented agrarian reform, distributing 35,000 hectares and benefitting 500,000 farmers through the different forms of agrarian struggle ranging from the reduction of rent to outright confiscation and distribution of lands to the rightful tillers, the spokesman said.

The NPA charged that "the U.S. imperialists have intensified their intervention by conducting night reconnaissance patrols using C-130KC flights over Marag Valley, Sinandungan and Paco Complex while JUSMAG [Joint United States Military Assistance Group] advisers led by Brigadier General Sausser and Capt. Keeps are always at hand at the 65th IB [Infantry Battalion] and 501st BD [Brigade] HQ of BG Homer Capulong and at the Command Bunker of the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) 5th Division in Camp Upi, Isabela."

PNP Arrest High-Ranking NPA Officer in Tarlac

HK0304094791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 3 Apr 91

[By Eloi Aquino]

[Text] A high-ranking New People's Army [NPA] officer in Tarlac was arrested by Philippine National Police troopers. According to Tarlac Provincial Commander Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Calderon, Arnold Arcilla, alias Comrade Karding, was arrested last Sunday afternoon along the MacArthur Highway near Tarlac while on board a jeep bound for Manila. Arcilla is believed to be connected with the planning of two bomb attacks on the Voice of America [VOA] transmitter in Capas, Tarlac.

Soldiers under the command of Captain Erwin Gumbal of the 181st Company and the regional security unit apprehended Arcilla at around 1630. Arcilla, who carried a price of 50,000 pesos for his arrest, is reportedly the head of the NPA Tarlac operational command and secretary of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] Tarlac provincial committee.

According to Calderon, Arcilla masterminded several killings in Tarlac, the bombing of the VOA station last January and a similar incident.

Report on Military's Counterinsurgency Strategy

HK2703043691 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 27 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

["Special report" by Dario B. Agnote: "Oplan (Operational Plan) Lambat Bitag (Net Trap)"]

[Text] To the government, it is dubbed a "total-approach strategy." To human rights groups, it is called a "total war policy." And to peasants in the countryside, it means a complete disruption of their once peaceful, rustic life.

In the military's operations file, this particular project is marked "Operational Plan: Lambat Bitag (Net Trap)." It is a counter-insurgency strategy designed to quell the communist rebellion, which has been plaguing this country for more than two decades now and is comprised of political, social and economic initiatives, and military action programs.

The targets are areas which the military tags as strongholds of the communist rebels. Employing the so-called "gradual constriction" doctrine, it aims to stage a relentless pursuit of guerrilla forces and to encircle their jungle hide-outs.

Since the operation's inception in 1988, the Philippine Army (PA) claims to have dismantled a total of 30 New People's Army (NPA) guerrilla fronts as of December last year.

"With this figure, the PA needs to dismantle 20 more fronts to increase our score to 50 fronts dismantled, or 70 percent of the original 72 fronts, in order to achieve strategic victory over the communist insurgents," said PA chief Major General Lisandro Abadia, former Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) operations chief and implementor of Lambat Bitag.

However, human rights groups and socially conscious churchmen, who do not discount the successes of the operations to isolate the NPA insurgents, said the cost in terms of civilian lives disrupted had been very high.

"Some of the components of the strategy are good, but on the whole the civilians have become the very victims" of the operations, said Bishop Gabriel Garol of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, who disclosed that hundreds of thousands of peasants and tribesmen have been displaced, two cases of which he descibed:

March 6, 1991, 7 a.m.: Residents of Barangay San Juan Sur in Zinundungan Valley, Cagayan Province, hear a crackle of gunfire about one kilometer away. Two hours later, two helicopters arrive and drop at least eight rocket bombs in the area. A 37-year-old farmer, Flor de Leon, reports two slain and two wounded, including a five-year-old baby, after the incident.

January 24, 1991: Claine Waradan, 22, of Conner, Kalinga-Apayao, hears a staccato of gunfire and later the sounds of a helicopter strafing a nearby barangay called Banban. The next day, the military drops leaflets asking the hundreds of residents of the three barangays of Conner town to evacuate prior to a military offensive in the area.

Waradan said the soldiers took over the area for nearly a month. Waradan said afterwards they trekked back only to find that their homes were already burned down. "Kahit yung cooperatives namin, sinira ... nagkalat lahat ang aming kagamitan ... at kinatay yung mga alaga naming manok at baboy (Even our cooperatives were destroyed, all our belongings scattered around, and our poultry and hogs killed)."

De Leon and Warandan came from the areas in Northern Luzon where the military has focused its offensive against the NPA rebels. The operation, dubbed "Oplan Battle City" started in October last year in Marag Valley—a 50-square-hectare area in Kalinga-Apayao with about 800 residents. Brigadier General Homer Capulong, commanding general of the PA's 501st Infantry Brigade, said the vigorous military offensive was a response to the communist insurgents' hold of the area since the early 1980s.

With its lush, verdant forests, fertile lands, and numerous rivers and caves, Capulong said, Marag was turned by NPA rebels into a seat of the Northern Luzon Regional Party Commission by virtue of a shadow government called the Barrio Revolutionary Committee.

Capulong said some four companies or about 280 NPA cadres led by a certain Evangeline Rabanot were based in the valley. The thick canopy of forest that covers the valley made it conducive for conducting guerrilla warfare training courses and revolutionary activities, he said.

The AFP's "gradual constriction" strategy is anchored on a "three-tiered defense system," which involves three vital interlocking components: the military mobile forces, the territorial forces, and the civilian volunteer organizations or "bantay bayan." These three components interact and mutually support each other according to a methodology consisting of four phases—clearing, holding, consolidation, and development.

Armed with this doctrine, the military combed areas believed to be hotbeds of insurgents such as Kalinga-Apayao and Abra in Northern Luzon, Surigao and Agusan in Mindanao, Negros Island and Bicol. Gripped by severe poverty due to the government's virtual neglect in delivering basic social services to the people, these areas have become prone to the communist insurgents' alternative socio-economic political program.

In Marag Valley, for instance, disclosed Mayor Bienvenido Verzola of Luna, Kalinga-Apayao, no government presence was felt since the early 1980s. "Neglected talaga ang aming bayan," he told reporters. "Kaya malakas ang loob ng mga NPA na magtayo ng kanilang sariling gobyerno sa Marag. Isolated ang Marag at pwede silang mag-survive doon (Our place is really neglected. That is why the NPAs are bold enough to establish their own government there. Marag is isolated, and they can survive there)."

This story is true not only in Marag but in many remote barangays in the countryside as well.

"I hope that we could find a combination of economic recovery which will dictate the phase of delivery of social services to the people and the continuing reforms in the AFP and the government which can be used in speeding up or hastening the decline of the communist movement," said General Rodolfo G. Biazon, AFP chief of staff.

Thailand

THAI RAT Carries 'Cabinet's Policy Statement'

BK0104122191 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 1 Apr 91 p 3

["The Cabinet's policy statement to be delivered to the National Legislative Assembly" by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun]

[Text] Respected Honorable Chairman and members of the NLA [National Legislative Assembly]:

Following his majesty the king's kind approval of the appointment of me as the prime minister, in accordance with the Royal Decree dated 2 March 1991, and the appointment of the Cabinet, in accordance with the Royal Decree dated 6 March 1991, the Cabinet has already held consultations with the National Peacekeeping Assembly to set the policy for the administration of the country. I therefore want to present to honorable members of the NLA the policy statement as follows:

Political Policy:

1. The government will regard the monarchy with the highest esteem and uphold the national, religious, and monarchic institutions, as well as the democratic ruling system with the king as head of state. It will endeavor to bring about happiness and prosperity to all sectors of the people.

2. Support the NLA in drafting a constitution in conformity with the aforementioned policy and improving the laws on elections, political parties, and other related laws to make them compatible with the constitution.

3. Promote and disseminate the knowledge of the democratic ruling system with the king as head of state and create consciousness among the people toward the system.

4. Organize elections and control them to be carried out honestly and fairly.

Bureaucratic Administration and Legal Improvement Policy

In improving the bureaucratic administrative system and laws to make them more effective and supportive of national development and attempts to prevent and suppress corruption, the government will:

1. Carry out operations to improve the bureaucratic administration as follows:

(A) Lay out a system that will limit the number of civil servants and employees, while at the same time increase their income and fringe benefits, and map out measures to improve their efficiency and morale.

(B) Amend legislation on bureaucracy and work procedures aimed at making works proceed quickly, decentralizing administrative power to the lower levels, preventing duplication of duties, and stopping corruption by setting clear and definite principles and time-frames on the processing of applications submitted to government agencies for admission or approval and by making the principles and time-frames known to the public or persons concerned in advance.

(C) Promote effective measures to prevent corruption in the bureaucracy, deal drastically with corruption suppression, and keep the public informed as much as possible of anticorruption activities. Information to verify anticorruption measures shall be made available to the public at any time.

(D) Improve the structure and procedures in personnel administration, budgeting, and planning in a way that they contribute to one another quickly and efficiently.

(E) Improve laws and rules and regulations to enable more decentralization of administrative powers to regional and local governments in the areas of personnel administration, budget management—particularly allocation of specific budgets for each province—and public services.

2. In improving the legal system to make it complementary to national economic and social development and paving the groundwork for future development, the government will follow these guidelines:

(A) Switch from the system of control to that of supervision and follow up or promotion, except in necessary cases concerning public peace and order, or national security.

(B) Revise existing laws which are outdated or unsuitable at present; or those which create obstacles to national development or free competition; or laws including unnecessary procedures.

(C) Set up a mechanism to systematically amend laws with continuity and efficiency.

3. The Government will amend laws and consider introducing laws to enhance social justice by promulgating laws to protect the rights of children, women, and the physically handicapped, as well as laws and rules and regulations on the development of potentiality and health of the elderly.

National Defense Policy

To efficiently protect security, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as well as national interests, the government has set the national defense policy as follows:

1. Modernize the armed forces to promote its strength and combat readiness and to prepare them for their duties suitable to the prevailing situation and the country's economic status.

2. In accordance with a system of collaboration of forces for national defense, maintain the preparedness of the armed forces, paramilitary, civil servants, and the public in defending the country against both internal and external threats and protecting national resources.

3. Develop the national defense industry, aimed at self-dependence, and support and promote researches on development and production of military equipment in the country, by cooperating with government agencies, private sector, and friendly countries.

4. Improve the welfare and living conditions of members of the armed forces and their families, promote technological development in various areas, which will be beneficial for their post-retirement careers, as well as the welfare of war veterans and their families.

5. Promote the role of the armed forces in national development, their contribution to royally-initiated projects, and their assistance to public and private disaster relief operations.

Foreign Policy

To achieve the greatest national interest, based on upholding and respecting obligations to treaties and agreements Thailand has with other countries, including the United Nations and human rights declarations, and minding good relations with the ASEAN countries, the neighboring countries, and friendly countries including superpowers, the government will implement the following foreign policy:

1. Accelerate creation of a proper image of Thailand while simultaneously creating confidence of other countries in the continuity of the policy.

2. Strengthen regional peace and good understanding with neighboring countries in order to forge stability, security, and a mutually prosperous region.

3. Develop economic, technical, and cultural cooperation with developing countries, particularly neighboring countries.

4. Promote economic, trade, investment, tourism, and labor relations with friendly countries and Thailand's major trading partners.

5. Expand Thailand's role in the world economy in support of free trade and promote Thailand's potential in international economic competition.

6. Protect rights and benefits of Thai citizens abroad so that they will not receive prejudicial treatment.

Economic Policy

Although the Thai economy is based on strong foundations and has a good chance of future growth, it is necessary to speed up the resolution of problems which are caused by rapid economic expansion, particularly the income distribution, poverty, environment, and natural resource deterioration problems. The government has thus set the following policy:

1. Urgently solve immediate economic problems which affect the people's livelihood.

(A) Speed up relief of people's hardships caused by drought and low agricultural produce prices by providing timely assistance by means of effective water distribution, including sufficient potable water, water for agriculture, as well as crop disease prevention and supply of necessary production implements.

(B) Speed up resolution of hardships suffered by low income earners in the urban areas by allocating 2 billion baht for housing so that they will have a relatively good place to live. Apply city planning and tax measures to encourage efficient use of urban land.

(C) Speed up delayed infrastructure projects which are known to be sound, and thoroughly review projects pending consideration, based on the greatest benefit to the people and the country.

(D) Create confidence of local and foreign businesss groups concerning their business and investment opportunities with a view toward generating jobs and income for the people.

(E) Restore tourism which was affected by the Middle East situation by promoting Thailand's image in foreign tourist markets.

2. Improve efficiency of the economic system so that it can adjust to a rapidly changing economic situation.

(A) Improve efficiency of the state enterprises by promoting mobilization of funds from the stock market and permitting greater participation by the private sector in state enterprise operations.

(B) Change the state's control to the role of promotion and support of the private sector so that it will play a greater role in the economy through the free economic system and fair competition.

(C) Adjust the tax structure for fairness and in order to reduce tax evasion and eliminate double taxation.

(D) Adjust tax rates and other fees for government services to international levels in order to reduce the burden in the conduct of business which will strengthen its efficiency to compete with other countries.

(E) Make the country's financial sector systematic by permitting imports, exports, and holding of appropriate amounts of foreign currencies.

(F) Review and repeal laws and regulations which obstruct investment and the conduct of business and reduce red tape in government service to the people and the private sector.

(G) Strengthen the capabilities of government agencies in analyzing and monitoring major projects so that they will truly benefit the country and the people.

(H) Organize the country's international trade, particularly international trade negotiations, in order to protect the country's overall economic interests.

(I) Abrogate the incumbent ban on new businesses and industries and expansion of old ones, except those which affect economic stability, national security, or good public morals.

3. Solve the basic economic problems and problems which emanate from economic expansion, particularly the income distribution and environment problems in order to raise the people's quality of life by:

(A) Organizing assistance to farmers who suffer from natural disasters and low produce prices by allocation of adequate national budget and assigning clear responsibility, plans, and measures for this action to agencies to ensure that the assistance truly reaches the farmers.

(B) Improving production efficiency so that it will correspond with the local natural resources by promoting the farmers' role in production planning. Form a national agriculture council so that farmers will have a role in formulating production policy in line with the market situation.

(C) Spreading ownership of land by farmers as well as implementing more effective land reform.

(D) Encouraging participation by the private sector along with the government and the local people in development of local industries and increasing the role of the private sector in tackling environmental problems along with the government.

(E) Promoting investment in general and especially promoting businesses important to trade and industrial development, particularly regional industries and investment which benefit the people and solve social problems, including environmental problems, as well as businesses which enhance national science and technology capabilities.

(F) Developing water resources, supplying and distributing water, particularly potable water and water for agriculture, industrial, and tourism use.

4. To lay the foundation for continued high and stable economic growth, the government will:

(A) Encourage greater public savings by developing appropriate financial mechanisms and promoting financial institutions to provide more types of financial services, as well as promoting the Security Exchanges of Thailand as the institution for promoting investment and mobilizing funds for the private sector and state enterprises.

(B) Maintain continued monetary and financial discipline by controlling the national budget, foreign borrowing, and the amount of money in circulation at appropriate levels.

(C) Improve efficiency of budget allocation and expenditures of the government so that spending will bring the greatest benefit.

Social Policy

To develop human resources, promote quality of life on the basis of righteousness and good moral principles, and speed up the earnest solution of social problems in order to bring happiness and social order, the government will:

1. Step up crime suppression and prevention, particularly the suppression of people who wield undesirable influence, traders and users of war weapons, financiers of forest destruction activities, and influential groups which exploit children, women, the disabled, the elderly, and those earning their living honestly. Step up earnest suppression of economic crimes.

2. Step up prevention and the solution of narcotics problems by fully applying the power under current laws to earnestly suppress production, trafficking, and consumption, as well as closely cooperate with the United Nations and friendly countries. Moreover, the government will step up the prosecution of users and traffickers of illegal hallucinogens.

3. Encourage people and volunteer groups to help the police and administrative authorities to prevent and suppress crime. Apply modern technology in gathering criminal information between the central and regional zones.

4. Support the role of private organizations in actions that benefit the public by amending concerned regulations and tax code.

5. Organize natural disaster prevention systems so that they will be ready to tackle such incidents in a timely manner.

6. Accelerate the control and prevention of communicable diseases, particularly AIDS, and cooperate with the private sector and charity organizations in informing the people about dangers of the diseases and creating in the people the sense that they have the duty to help prevent and solve this problem.

7. Improve the efficiency and quality of public health services so that they can serve the people at all levels by:

(A) Raising the capability, particularly by solving the shortage of medical personnnel especially at the tambon and district levels in order to reduce congestion in city hospitals. Improve efficiency of the patient trasferring system.

(B) Creating health security for the people and providing health services to low income earners, those who society should care for, and the elderly.

8. Improve the education system so as to develop the citizen's potentials and their moral value in order to meet the country's demand, as follows:

(A) Expand education opportunities and services in and out of school in order to provide broader education among the young, and raise their education to the lower secondary education level at the minimum.

(B) Improve university management for greater independence and efficiency and forge closer cooperation between private and public universities.

(C) Formulate measures to solve the shortage of quality teachers, particularly in universities.

(D) Promote vocational education in and out of school to solve the shortage of skilled labor essential for national development.

(E) Promote flexibility of education agencies at the central, regional, and local levels in the administration of education, religious, and cultural affairs.

9. Improve the social security law for clarity, fairness, and application flexibility so that it will truly benefit the welfare of workers and their families. Ensure that employers and employees comply with the labor law.

10. Promote the declaration of the Convention on Rights of the Child and support the family institution by emphasizing readiness of the couple, family planning, and family responsibilities.

Judiciary Policy

1. Make the operation of the judiciary system more efficient and accessible to all. Improve court procedures and legal prosecution compatible with current social conditions.

2. Uphold the independence of the courts by separating the judiciary from the executive branch so that it will be a guarantor of justice for the people. Separate the courts as an independent institute as well as improve the welfare of judges to enable them to carry our their duties more effectively.

National Resources, Energy, and Environment Policy

To effectively recover the deteriorated natural resources and to effectively solve environmental problems, the government will implement the following policy:

1. Conserve and protect natural resources, such as forestry, land, water, and other resources, by improving related government agencies' capability and encouraging local communities to take a direct role in conserving natural resources.

2. Amend laws to give government agencies dealing with the environment more power in supervising the implementation of laws and regulations on environmental conservation and recovery. Carry out a public relations campaign to heighten the people's awareness so that they will become responsible and play an important role in protecting the environment to improve the quality of life.

3. Make the environmental management system more effective by establishing agencies which are fully responsible for setting up environmental standards, and for researching, supervising, and implementing those standards. Set up a fund for the development of the environment and quality of life, with a regulation that people who are responsible for destroying the environment must make financial contributions to recover the environment.

4. Urgently solve environmental problems which are dangerous to the people's health, especially relating to water, air, and noise pollution, and waste disposal from local communities, factories, and business establishments. Require industrial plants responsible for polluting the environment to pay for the cleanup in the cases when the government has to help them solve the pollution problems.

5. Improve controls on the transportation, storage, use, and disposal of toxic chemicals and dangerous materials and accelerate strict observation of laws in this regard. Encourage local communities and public organizations to have a role in these controls.

6. Adopt measures on using energy effectively in industrial, housing, and transport sectors by introducing legislation on energy saving, and work out an energy-saving plan for the transport sector.

7. Adopt a long-term policy on energy production and development compatible with the environment.

Science and Technology Policy

To promote economic development and to improve competitive capability in the international market in the future, the government therefore adopts the following policy:

1. Urgently develop personnel in science and technology by adding more funds to studies in these two fields and supporting more research.

2. Set up a mechanism to promote cooperation in science and technology development between the government and the private sector, such as through the creation of science and technology parks and organizations on technology assessment.

3. Create incentives for the development and use of modern science and technology by adjusting the structure of tax on scientific and technological know-how as well as introducing monetary and fiscal incentives to support research work by the private sector.

4. Support and promote the use of computers and modern technology by government agencies to improve their efficiency and public service.

Respected Chairman and members of the NLA:

The policy which I have just stated may not cover all areas, but, when considering the limited time, the government regards this policy as necessary and urgent for implementation to meet the needs of the people and to bring progress to the country in a short period. As for other matters which have already been stated in the national economic and social development plan, laws, government regulations, and other ordinary plans, the government will accelerate and supervise the effective implementation of them by government agencies.

With the said intentions, I hope that the NLA will support the government policy so that the government will be able to administer the national affairs smoothly to bring progress to the country and happiness to the people, which is a joint aspiration of the NLA and the government.

Cabinet Endorses Amnesty Bill for NKPC

BK0304025591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Apr 91 p A4

[Text] The caretaker Cabinet yesterday endorsed a bill to grant amnesty to the National Peacekeeping Council [NKPC] which staged the coup d'etat on Feb 23, according to a Cabinet press release.

The bill has yet to be passed into legislation by the National Assembly formed by the NKPC, as the military junta calls itself.

The release quoted the draft legislation as stating that the NPKC members had staged the coup and seized power in the best interests of the country and did not want to reap any personal benefit by having done so, so they should be granted amnesty.

The bill was quoted as stating that the NPKC had to stage the coup to tackle some problems that were threatening the monarchy and the country's stability.

Cabinet Approves Fiscal 1992 Draft Budget Bill

BK0304023391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Apr 91 pp 1, 7

[Text] An increase in Government spending by nearly 19 per cent, sweeping tax reforms, an attack on inflation, income distribution to help the poor and increased environmental awareness formed the bulk of Thailand's second balanced budget in history.

The 460,400 million baht draft budget bill for the 1992 fiscal year was approved by Cabinet yesterday. It has been described as an "austerity budget" to prevent the economy overheating. It will now be proposed to the National Legislative Assembly, probably on July 9.

Finance Minister Suthi Singsane and Budget Bureau director Bodi Chunnanon yesterday indicated that the controversial Value-Added Tax [VAT] issue has not gone away. Mr Suthi was speaking after Cabinet gave the green light to the budget. He stressed the need for streamlining the tax structure and this includes introducing VAT. It also included modifying customs tariffs and personal income tax.

The introduction of VAT may cause some initial inconvenience in the beginning but this is normal for the introduction of any new form of tax, Mr Suthi said. But the government would earn more tax revenue and the public generally would benefit because VAT would bring fairness in tax collection.

The controversial VAT was scheduled to be implemented this year, but postponed until next year by then prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan. The deposed premier felt there was still confusion surrounding the system despite a major publicity campaign by the Revenue Department. He said the tax restructuring would be fairer on taxpayers. It would also make Thai products more competitive on the international market, he said.

Next year's is the second balanced budget ever to be brought down in this country. This current budget was the first. It represents an increase of 18.8 per cent on the current budget of 387,500 million baht. The budget accounts for 16.7 per cent of the country's gross domestic product. A balanced budget means allotted expenditure has been set to be equal total revenue expected to be collected.

The budget proposal was made by the Finance Ministry after a joint meeting with the Budget Bureau, the National Economic and Social Development Board and the Bank of Thailand.

According to the Cabinet announcement, the balanced budget is intended to suit the country's economic and social development specified under the Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan which is due to start this October. This budget has been considered sufficient to cover the country's administration, debt repayment and investment.

The main objectives which are set to be achieved from such spending are:

—To support stable and continuous economic growth.

—To generate fair income distribution from such social and economic development.

—To develop human resources as required by economic growth.

—To conserve and develop natural resources and environment.

—To promote research and development on science and technology.

As part of the income distribution, there will be measures like rural development, promoting safety and security of the people's lives and property and promoting land ownership among the low income earners. There will also be spending to provide sufficient infrastructure, public utilities like electricity and water supply. There will also be spending to contain AIDS. The Government did not give a breakdown on what would be spent on specific sectors.

Finance Minister Suthi said the austerity policy would continue to be pursued next year to arrest inflation and also to prevent the economy from overheating. Government spending will be controlled at an appropriate level that will not cause inflation to go too high and harm economic growth.

The formulation of the fiscal policy this year has taken into account monetary policy, said Mr Suthi, citing the Finance Ministry's plan to buy back government bonds to arrest inflation. The finance minister gave an assurance that revenue collection would meet the projected target. This was because the target was not set too high and because the policy of austerity and monetary stability was still being pursued.

Budget Bureau director Bodi Chunnanon, meanwhile, said the government set aside 130,700 million baht which constitutes 4.8 per cent of GDP or 28.4 per cent of the budget for investment compared to this fiscal year's 105,000 million baht for the same purpose. On top of that, 301,700 million baht was earmarked for expenditure. This represents 11 per cent of GDP or 65.5 per cent of the budget compared to 261,900 million baht this fiscal year. Of the expenditure, he said 207,965 million baht was allocated for debt servicing which constitutes 40.4 per cent increase from this year's debt repayment.

Commenting on Salary Scale C which, if approved, will give government officials an average 13 per cent pay rise, Mr Bodi said that the matter was still under the government's consideration. But he said only necessary spending would be included in the budget because the government had given special emphasis on investment budget which totals 103,700 million baht next fiscal year.

Verification of Troops Withdrawal in Laos Begins

BK0304014791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Apr 91 p 7

[Text] A joint Thai-Lao committee yesterday flew over the Laotian side of the border on the first day of the verification of the withdrawal of troops from disputed border areas. Both sides agreed last week to verify the withdrawal between April 2-4.

The agreement on the withdrawal of troops was reached when Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun met Lao Premier Kaysone Phomvihan and armed forces chief of supreme staff Gen Sisavat Keobounphan during his visit to Vientiane early last month.

Upon Gen Suchinda's return, Thailand immediately withdrew its troops from the disputed areas at Ban Rom Klao in Phitsanulok's Chat Trakan District and Ban Mai, Ban Klang and Ban Sawang in Uttaradit's Ban Khok Subdistrict.

During yesterday's inspection, Thai and Lao delegates—led by Col Sema Yusathaphon and Col Phommachak Southisane respectively—boarded an MI-8 helicopter at Ban Muang Phrae on the Lao side of the border. They landed at Phou Vieng to see an empty base and flew over Phou Samniem before landing at Ban Bosane for lunch. The last village visited was Ban Tontan where about 100 people live. The villagers said during the battles of early 1989 artillery shells landed near the community every day. They welcomed the withdrawal of troops.

Col Sema, leader of the Thai delegation, said from yesterday's inspection there was not sufficient evidence to verify the withdrawal of the Lao troops. Only Ban Tontan was clearly seen as a former artillery base, but at other villages there were no traces of withdrawal, he said. He said the Lao delegates admitted the withdrawal on its side was not yet completed. They also refused to let the Thais see all locations they wanted to.

Today, both sides will fly over Phou Han to Ban Nong Pla Chit and will proceed to an area opposite Ban Mai, Ban Klang and Ban Sawang and to Ban Na Fai and Ban Muang Thong. The verification of withdrawal on the Thai side of the border will take place tomorrow.

Article on Results of Laos' 5th Party Congress

BK0204044191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Apr 91 p 4

[Article by James Pringle entitled "A Symbolic Change of Heart in Laos"]

[Text] The changes in Laos come in the wake of massive Soviet aid cutbacks to this impoverished Southeast Asian state whose fortunes—or lack of them—have been tied to the Soviet bloc since communist military victories in Indochina in 1975.

Now the communist leadership in Vientiane—if it can still be called that—has changed the country's national motto. Until the fifth congress of the ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP), which ended last weekend, the state credo, spelled out on the head of official documents, was "peace, independence, unity and socialism."

The new state motto, according to LPRP boss Kaysone Phomvihan, the former leader of the communist maquis, speaking beneath a double portrait of a curiously oriental-looking Marx and Lenin, is "peace, independence, democracy, unity and prosperity."

The word "socialism," at least in the motto, has vanished like the early morning mists that wreathe the mountains of this nation of 4.1 million people, mainly subsistence farmers. Though some congress documents still define socialism as a distant goal, the ideological retreat from Marxism in Laos is clearly well under way.

The words "democracy" and "prosperity" have been added to the state credo—though both, in truth, seem still far-off goals in one of the world's poorest countries which has never known anything remotely resembling universal suffrage.

"It isn't such a change because democracy and prosperity really mean socialism," Vice Foreign Minister Thongloune Sisoulith somewhat lamely told correspondents at the congress.

Both Western journalists and envoys were permitted to attend sessions of the LPRP congress for the first time ever, a measure of the new openness in Laos. But, while there were 19 national communist party delegations at the last congress in 1986, only four—including one from China—were present this time, a sign of the times in the shrinking communist world.

While the hammer and sickle were visible on the LPRP banner that formed a backdrop for the congress platform, the days are numbered in Laos for these emblems under which communism triumphed here.

This became clear when a 10-foot-high crest showing the nation's insignia, recently erected on the reviewing stand from which white-suited party luminaries watch parades in the Laotian capital's main square, was unveiled.

The electric pylons and sheaves of corn are still there, but the insignia is minus the hammer and sickle that has always until now adorned it. "You would have to say that this is significant," said a Soviet resident of Vientiane who drove me to the square to see.

Other diplomats said they believed the hammer and sickle would be "phased out," a move the Soviets here see as highly symbolic. But, for the present at any rate, the LPRP remains the only permitted political party, retaining what of communism it considers worthwhile, while quietly dumping the rest.

And there are certainly no plans for a multi-party system and free elections any time soon. As in China, the issue is power and those who have it want to hold it in a system not much different from feudal days.

Indeed, there is not yet much public demand for political pluralism. People are still at the stage of enjoying the small improvements in their hand-to-mouth lives a relatively free market economy has brought during the past two years—changes now codified at the just-concluded congress.

But, just in case, Laotian television has fully reported on the Gorbachev-Yeltsin imbroglio in the Soviet Union, perhaps as a warning against the perils of too much political opening and debate.

Yet while Western diplomats in the riverine Laotian capital, which is at present redolent of the perfume of frangipani and bougainvillaea blossoming in this dry hot season, are taken aback by the rapid pace of change, they are not surprised at the changes themselves.

In January, more than 100 Soviet specialists were pulled out of Laos, and many of those remaining may go soon, to their chagrin—they are paid in dollars here. Soviet aid has also been drastically cut back.

After 1992, the Russians say that all military purchases must be paid for in hard currency, though Moscow will give Laos until the early 21st Century to pay back its 750 million rouble debt.

The upshot of Soviet cut-backs, caused by the financial crisis at home, is that the Laotian government must attract investment and aid from Western countries, if the long-suffering population has any hope of breaking its cycle of poverty. Therefore, they think it best to do away with "scary" symbols and slogans that might inhibit such investors.

Perhaps it is for this reason that the 70-year-old Kaysone, a once retiring figure who fought the Americans for years from caves as leader of the communist Pathet Lao when the Vietnam war spilled over into Laos, appeared to paraphrase the Gettysburg address when he told the party congress of the tasks ahead.

One such task, said Kaysone, whose grip on leadership was further enhanced at the congress, was to set up a state apparatus to be run according to the constitution and law and "by the people, for the people."

Another aim, already well under way here, was the move to a market economy, the veteran Marxist leader, who is also prime minister, said. "It's all part of the process of experimentation and opening up going on here," said one Western ambassador. "You don't have to be any Einstein to see that states with centrally controlled economies are just not delivering the goods. It's to their credit here that the message has got through."

One interested and no doubt worried spectator at the gathering was Vietnamese Communist party chief Nguyen Van Linh. The much-postponed Vietnamese party congress is due to be held within weeks, despite continued infighting between liberals and Marxist conservatives over whether Vietnam should sweep away much ideological baggage and proceed full-steam ahead towards reform.

Interview With German Envoy on Post-Coup Ties

BK0304032791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Apr 91 p A12

[Interview with Baron Berthold von Pfetten-Arnbach, German ambassador to Thailand, by NATION editor Thepchai Yong "last week"; place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Thepchai] With the economic situation in Germany reaching a crisis, will German businessmen's interest in Asia and the Pacific diminish?

[Pfetten-Arnbach] Private enterprises are not being directly affected by the situation which requires attention more from the federal government. So I don't think it will in any way divert German investments from this part of the world to eastern Germany. Southeast Asia is a very prosperous and dynamic region and it is only natural that German businessmen will want to be present here. Large firms make their investment decisions on the basis of opportunities they see. We have seen in the last year and a half an upswing in German investment in Thailand.

[Thepchai] What about German development programmes in Thailand? Will they be affected?

[Pfetten-Arnbach] We have about 30 cooperation projects going in Thailand that include loans, grants, rural development. And these are not being affected.

[Thepchai] Will the recent coup in Thailand affect future German development programmes in Thailand since the European Community has issued a statement condemning the power seizure?

[Pfetten-Arnbach] All the projects that have been agreed upon will be honoured. So all these 30 projects will be implemented. New projects will have to be decided bilaterally in future negotiations between the two countries. So far no date has been set for such negotiations. We have always valued our relationship with Thailand for historical reasons and for the fact that Thailand is an open and pluralistic partner. Thailand has a foreign policy full of imagination. When in the past it came to EC-ASEAN issues, our approaches were always influenced by Thai input. We also sympathize with Thailand by virtue of it being a frontline state and having to accept a large number of Indochinese refugees.

[Thepchai] Does your government feel encouraged by the recent developments in Thailand following the coup, especially the fact that we have a civilian prime minister heading a civilian government?

[Pfetten-Arnbach] The European Community ambassadors jointly met the prime minister and expressed our wishes for him to succeed in returning the country to democracy. That sums up pretty well what we think. He did explain to us the line his government was to take.

[Thepchai] How do you see the role of Germany and that of the European Community in this region?

[Pfetten-Arnbach] European countries have a role in this region because inter-dependence is increasingly important in dealing with problems of global nature. These problems can no longer be solved by individual countries or regions. Environment is one area which countries like Germany can play a role. By the year 2030 the demand for energy will rise by 70 per cent as a result of the population growth. The result will be a serious problem with global warming. This is one area that Germany can help because German industries are increasingly turning to developing technologies that are compatible with the environment.

We see German unification and integration into the European Community as a sign that our responsibility is growing. We want to make contributions to the world at large by trying to solve problems facing the world community.

[Thepchai] On the question of European single market, do you think countries in this region, especially those in ASEAN, are less apprehensive about its effects than they were a few years back?

[Pfetten-Arnbach] Fortunately, they view the issue now with a greater serenity. The completion of the single market is by no means contradictory but rather complementary to international trade. The market integration will reduce barriers to market access, increase competitiveness and promote an open trade regime. Fortress Europe is a wrong notion.

[Thepchai] How do you foresee the German role in Indochina? Since the former East Germany had very close relations with these countries, how will you pick up these ties where they were left out?

[Pfetten-Arnbach] We have no diplomatic relations with Cambodia where the embassy of the former East Germany has been closed down after the unification. The two governments agreed that Hungary will look after German interests in Phnom Penh, pending further developments. Since Germany has no intention to impede in any way the progress toward a solution of the Cambodian conflict, we will not take any definite decision about the future of our relations with Cambodia until plans for a solution by the UN Security Council are implemented. However, interest is growing among German businessmen to invest in Vietnam and to help in the reconstruction of that country.

Police Unearth Arms Cache in Northeast

BK3003022091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Aranyaprathet—A large cache of arms buried by communist insurgents before their defection was yesterday unearthed by police on the Banthad mountain.

Guided by two communist defectors, a team of Border Patrol policemen from Watthana Nakhon retraced a jungle trail on the mountain which straddles Nakhon Ratchasima, Prachin Buri and Buri Ram provinces, to a spot where the arms were buried.

The police team unearthed a tightly sealed oil drum in which war weapons in a disassembled state were found oiled and wrapped in waterproof plastic sheets. Police said they found nine M16 rifles, three AK47 rifles, eight SKS rifles, two M1 rifles, four M79 grenade launchers and one 60-mm mortar plus about 30 empty ammunition clips.

Police said the search team had to tread very cautiously because the surrounding areas were littered with junji traps and landmines. They believe there are several other such spots where the insurgents had burried their weapons before their defection.

An informed source said one Border Patrol Police helicopter which picked up the arms haul lost its way in the darkness and temporarily strayed into Cambodian airspace in Poipet. The accidental intrusion drew small arms groundfire from Heng Samrin forces.

After realising the violation, the chopper quickly changed course and flew back into Thai territory, the source added.

Vietnam

Minister Recalls Dialogue With U.S. in Jamaica

BK0204083991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 31 Mar 91

["International Topics" program]

[Text] Dear friends: A second Vietnam-U.S. dialogue took place in Jamaica in mid-February. The Vietnamese delegation to the dialogue was headed by Justice Minister Phan Hien, president of the Vietnam-U.S. Friendship Association. A correspondent of the International Topics program has suggested that Minister Phan Hien related the story of that dialogue. Following is his account of the event:

[Begin Phan Hien recording] The dialogue lasted four days, with each day devoted to a different subject. On the first day, the subject was security and stability in Southeast Asia. The second day, it was the impact of worldwide economic and political changes on Vietnamese-U.S. relations. The third day, we discussed the effect of Vietnam's economic renovation on Vietnamese-U.S. relations. The fourth and last day, we viewed the prospects for normalization of Vietnamese-U.S. relations. Those were the four issues discussed at the dialogue. They were very important strategic and concrete issues. Both sides took turns presenting their views and asking each other questions to improve their mutual understanding of various matters.

Among the regional issues brought up for discussion, Cambodia stood out as the first and foremost issue in Southeast Asia. What was Vietnam's attitude toward this issue? What was the U.S. policy on this issue? And aside from the United States, what was the attitude of other big powers toward Cambodia? We needed to know this to quickly move toward a settlement of the Cambodia issue.

The second question dealt with the changes that have been taking place around the world. What they wanted to talk about a lot were the political changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. What was the impact, if any, of these economic and political changes on Vietnamese-U.S. relations? The two sides also exchanged views on the strategic aspect as well as the concrete aspects of this question.

The third question was our economic reforms. They often asked whether Vietnam would continue to maintain its renovation policy throughout the 1990s. Well, on this question, we affirmed that we would stick to renovation. But in this process we must always act in accordance with the development of the actual situation. The development of the actual situation now calls for renovation, and it will be the same in the future. Renovation is a never-ending process, and we affirmed that we will continue with renovation. The Americans showed keen interest in this matter; they wanted to see whether we will maintain this policy so that they will come to Vietnam to do business and establish relations. They were afraid that we might follow a different course in the future, putting an end to the renovation process. That's why they were very interested in this question.

There was another question: What are the prospects for normalization of Vietnamese-U.S. relations? How do we perceive this issue? After exchanging views, everyone agreed that relations must be normalized, and that in the interests of both Vietnam and the United States, there must be an early abolition of the embargo against Vietnam. Moreover, the meeting was under way when the Gulf war broke out, and the United States and President Bush himself said the Vietnam syndrome must be erased one way or another. We Vietnamese understand all too well what the Vietnam syndrome means to the United States. But now, that situation has passed, and we think that under the current circumstances, conditions have become more favorable for U.S. politicians, officials, journalists, and businessmen to bring pressure to bear upon the U.S. administration to make an early decision on this issue.

During the meeting, a journalist, Ms. Elizabeth Becker, said a six-month deadline should be set for the normalization of Vietnamese-U.S. relations. This is also a good idea that helps create pressure. Oil businessmen themselves demanded that the embargo be lifted so that they can go to Vietnam as soon as possible, because if they are slow in coming, they will be left behind by Britain, France, Belgium, Japan, the Netherlands, which are already in Vietnam. Nowadays, in business, you are bound to suffer if you are slow. Therefore, oil businessmen from companies such as Amoco and other businessmen in the field of [words indistinct] showed their impatience, saying that if the embargo is allowed to drag on forever, it will damage the interests of both countries. Researchers from various institutes, such as the Asia-Pacific Institute, and officials of the World Bank also asked for an early normalization of Vietnamese-U.S. relations.

There should be no more delay. It is abnormal for relations between the two countries not to be normalized 15 years after the war's end. Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts told me that they would do their utmost to help, but the question is how to muster force, how to get as many people as possible to agree to bring pressure to bear on the U.S. Congress. This idea was shared by a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. (Marshall), who represented [name of company indistinct] and who had visited Vietnam, also showed his impatience in this matter. Journalists Elizabeth Becker and Stanley Karnow, and (?Jane Fonda), whom I am sure all of you know well, have an excellent knowledge of Vietnam. They all agreed that this should be done without delay. I could only tell them that each of us should do something concrete to the best of his ability to influence the situation. The main thing is that everything now depends on the United States. If the U.S. administration turns on the green light, these agencies will go to Vietnam at once.

At the recent investment forum we held in Ho Chi Minh City, many U.S. businessmen were presented and showed keen interest in Vietnam, which attracted them strongly. In my opinion, these are very favorable conditions for us. That is why our Vietnam-U.S. Friendship Association is striving to expand its membership to have an impact on U.S. and world opinion. [end recording]

Russian SSR Economic Delegation Ends Visit

BK0204143891 Hanoi VNA in English 1248 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 2—A group of experts of the Federative Republic of Russia headed by A.A. Kotova, vice-chairwoman of the State Committee for Economy, paid a 12-day visit to Vietnam ending today. The group had working sessions with the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Ministry of Light Industry and visited many localities and enterprises, to discuss cooperation in 1991 and the following years. This morning the Soviet guests were received by Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Duc Luong. Also today memoranda of understanding were signed by Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission Le Xuan Trinh and Vice Chairwoman Kotova.

Malaysia To Export Refined Oil to Government

BK2803104891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] According to REUTERS, on 26 March Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar bin Baba said: the Malaysian National Petroleum Corporation, Petronas, will export to Vietnam 200,000-300,000 barrels of refined oil annually.

Districts Hold First Round Party Congresses

Soc Son District

BK2903140991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Report by Thanh Binh]

[Text] On 22-23 March, the Hanoi's Soc Son District party organization held its first round of the sixth congress. Almost 250 delegates from 83 basic party organizations representing more than 8,000 party members attended the congress.

In preparation for this congress, since December 1990, Soc Son District has striven to carry out many pressing tasks and organized an extensive political drive among basic party organizations at agencies, enterprises, factories, state farms, armed forces units, subwards, and villages to let party members contribute ideas to documents of the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress.

During their congresses, many basic party organizations combined the task of contributing viewpoints to the party documents with that of firmly grasping the situation at their units and in localities.

In the recent drive to appraise work quality of party members, many basic party organizations boldly criticized their members for the lack of efforts. Most of the people's letters of complaint and denunciation against party members were carefully examined and appropriately settled by echelons of party committees.

The Soc Son party and people's committees have consistently guided various agencies to urgently settle the people's conflicts related to land, housing, and corruption issues, especially at units and agricultural cooperatives in the district. The district people's committee has set up a committee for collecting debts and balancing the account of unused properties. A number of party members who usurped credit loans had to refund them for the state and collectives. Through this practice, Soc Son District collected a large sum of money from many bad debtors for use in developing production. The district party organization also resolutely took measures against degenerate party members. More than 200 of them faced disciplinary actions, of which almost 100 were expelled from the party and more than 10 office and section heads were dismissed. Meanwhile, a number of party members who were wrongly accused of committing crimes were acquitted. Through these tasks, various basic party organizations have regained their prestige and upheld the role of party members, thereby gradually winning the people's confidence in the party. For this reason, the district first round basic party organization congress was crowned with success. Many key cadres who won the people's confidence have been elected to the higher echelon party organization congresses.

While guiding and supervising basic party organization congresses, Soc Son District has paid attention to accelerating production, improving the people's daily life, and maintaining security and social order and safety. However, since these party organization congresses were held during the pre-harvest lean period, the district had to allot 30 billion dong from the state budget and 20 tonnes of rice to help poor families, especially those of the sick and falllen soldiers. The district also provided peasant households with 15 tonnes of fertilizer for ricefields and granted 95 million dong as loans to the peasants to help them promptly engage in the fifth-month spring rice planting. As a result, more than 11,000 hectares of grain, including 6,000 hectares of rice—900 hectares more than the previous crop—were planted. Almost all acreage was cultivated with high-yield rice varieties in accordance with crop schedules. The ricefields and tobacco plantations in the district are being put under the good care of peasants, thus promising a good crop. Industrial, small industrial, and handicraft production has also been rearranged and has scored encouraging results.

Through these achievements, Soc Son District created an enthusiastic atmosphere when it helped organize basic party organization congresses.

At the district first round party organization congress, after hearing reports filed by more than 7,000 party members from basic party organization congresses, delegates discussed issues related to the draft party documents. Almost 20 delegates delivered their reports at the congress, expressing their identity of views with the party on the necessity to formulate the platform on socialist construction and the strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development up to the year 2000. Many delegates contributed ideas to the socioeconomic development program along the socialist path and expressed their opposition to pluralism and the multiparty system.

Comrade Pham Van Thu, representative of the Kim Anh tea factory, suggested that it is necessary to clearly define the state-run economic position in the socialist economic system and in the strategy of socioeconomic stabilization, he said:

[Begin Thu recording] In drafting documents for the Seventh CPV Congress, the party Central Committee has asserted the key role of the state-run economy. We absolutely agree to the party Central Committee's political report, especially the appraisal part which stressed that the state-run economy has firmly grasped various key economic components, thus being able to regulate the economic activities and market and prices. The report also said that almost one-third of the state-run enterprises are surging forward to improve their business, increase accummulations, and strengthen new management mechanism. It is necessary to say that the success of the state-run economy depends on the efficacy of production and market management. A large segment of the state-run industrial establishments in districts and wards experienced difficulties and as a result it is necessary to take measures to help at least 70 percent of them overcome their difficulties. [end recording]

Comrade Vuong Thuc, representative of the district water conservancy sector, presented initial results scored by the district in agricultural development, he said:

[Begin Thuc recording] The water conservancy project at the Red River is not only a key project of our district but of the Hanoi capital as well. This project has manifested the party and state attention to develop agricultural production. This project will provide water for 2,455 hectares of ricefield and almost 6,000 hectares of cultivated areas of seven villages in Soc Son District. After the Ministry of Water Conservancy adopted the project, we have started construction from Dong Anh to Phu Vinh villages. Thus far, construction work valued at 1.5 billion dong has been completed. It is expected that the project will provide water to some areas in the 1991-92 winter-spring crop, and that completion will be achieved in early 1992. [end recording]

Comrade Nguyen Thi Thoat, representative of the district public health sector, spoke on the economic development strategy, especially the part dealing with efforts to reduce population growth and implement the family planning program, she said:

[Begin Thoat recording] The draft strategy said that it is necessary to launch an extensive campaign to reduce the population growth, provide more facilities and cadres to accelerate the family planning program; and resolutely apply educational, financial, punitive, and economic measures to strengthen agencies responsible for the population and family planning tasks to help them improve their tasks. I think that these are correct tasks. However, for a better result, I suggest that various state regulations and policies must be designed in a way that they truly support efforts to reduce the population growth. As I see it at present, some state regulations even promote the population growth. I found out this phenomenon through my work and that is why I would like to make this suggestion. [end recording]

After a two-day sitting, the Soc Son District party organization congress scored a remarkable success and elected 23 officials and five alternate delegates for the higher echelon party organization congresses.

The first round party organization congress of the district has set a good example for the revolutionary action program to advance toward the second round congress. Comrade Nguyen Van Tiet, secretary of the Soc Son District Party Committee said:

[Begin Tiet recording] To bring the success of the Soc Son District party organization congress into full play, in the days ahead we will launch a mass seething revolutionary movement in the district to satisfactorily carry out the political task. However, since ours is an agriculture producing district, we will focus our efforts on caring for the winter-spring crop because it seems to be a very good crop this year, especially rice and tobacco. At present we are striving to weed the ricefields, improve the irrigation system, eradicate harmful insects and so forth so as to ensure a victorious winter-spring crop for our district. In 1991, we strive to produce 50,000 tonnes of grains and 1,800-2,000 tonnes of industrial crops, the highest output as compared to the past several years. In the economic, financial, credit, and distribution and circulation domains there are still pressing problems to be resolved. As a result, we are concentrating efforts on improving the trade and service network to truly serve production and the people's daily life. Besides, we are striving to oppose goods smuggling and contraband goods, accelerate tax collection to increase state revenue, while satisfactorily maintaining security and social order and safety.

Similar to other districts, Soc Son has satisfactorily carried out its tasks prior to and after its party organization congress. However, Soc Son has planned a quite concrete program after its congress as mentioned by the comrade district party committee secretary. This is a good example for other districts.

Thanh Oai District

BK0204141091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 29 Mar 91

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] NHAN DAN today carries an article by Le Anh Quan on Ha Son Binh Province's Thanh Oai district party organization congress. The congress exchanged different viewpoints on various key issues in a democratic fashion and with a high sense of responsibility. These are the viewpoints of high echelons of party committee members and of the Ha Son Binh provincial party committee's standing body drawn from experiences in organizing grassroots and district party organization congresses.

Delegates discussed animatedly issues related to agricultural cooperatives and their management mechanism. There were three different ideas. The first one called for abolishing the cooperative management committee and replacing it with a cooperative operation team. The second one also called for the abolition of the same committee but suggested that the work of this committee should be assigned to the village people's committee. The third idea called for the maintenance of the cooperative management committee with the condition that efforts should be made to strengthen its organization and functions to help the committee effectively provide full economic services for cooperative members. After a lengthy discussion, 96 percent of delegates to the congress adopted the third option.

Krong Pac District

BK0204121591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Krong Pac district was the first unit of Dac Lac province to reorganize the first round party congress. Some 130 delegates from 39 basic party organizations in the district, including 47.2 percent of delegates aged from 20 to 40 and 13 percent of ethnic minority delegates attended the congress.

Before the congress, basic party organizations in the district gathered 11,305 ideas contributed to the draft documents of the seventh party congress. Apart from petitions related to common problems of the entire party and people, the delegates to Krong Pac district party congress debated issues related to the real situation in the locality, and submitted to the party central committee such practical petitions and aspirations as investment in building large areas of specialized cultivation of long-term industrial crops in the Central Highlands, namely coffee, rubber and tea plants; and in developing the industries to process exports.

In economic relations, the state should avoid imposing arbitrary prices on agricultural products, and should formulate policies to subsidize the prices for laborers. It should consolidate state-run economic installations including state farms and state forests. Many delegates reported the serious destruction of forests and suggested that plans should be established to rationally exploit forests.

In a democratic atmosphere of openness, the delegates frankly debated those issues on which they had not agreed or still held opposing views.

Paper Discusses Purposes of Party Congresses

BK0204142591 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 26 Feb 91 pp 1, 4

[26 April NHAN DAN editorial: "Firmly Maintain and Correctly Implement the Requirements of the Party Organization Congresses at Various Levels"]

[Text] Holding the congresses of the party organizations at various levels satisfactorily is a task of great significance during the preparation for the Seventh Party Congress.

The purpose of the congresses of the party organizations at various levels this time is to discuss and contribute views on the draft documents of the coming national party congress: namely, the platform, the socioeconomic strategy, the political report, the roundup report on party building and on the revision of the party statute, and the draft of the (revised) party statute. Other purposes of the congresses of the party organizations at various levels are to elect delegates to attend higher-echelon party congresses, review the activities of the party organizations concerned during their recent terms of office, elect new party organization executive committees, and discuss and contribute constructive ideas to the agendas of higher-echelon party congresses.

All party organizations from the provincial and city level down to grass-roots levels will conduct party congresses in two rounds—first and second. The purposes of the first-round congresses are to contribute constructive views on various documents of the party Central Committee and to elect delegates in accordance with set ethical and behavioral standards to higher-echelon party congresses. The second-round party congresses are to seek to fully understand the resolution of the national party congress, review the work of respective party organizations during their recent terms of office, and affirm the tasks to be carried out during the period ahead. Therefore, there should be a contribution of views on all these documents, including self-criticism reports of various party committees, by various departments of the party, governmental organs, mass organization, economic, cultural, and social units, and the people at large. The views contributed should be carefully studied and presented to the national party congress for final consideration.

In making preparations for ensuring the realization of the above purposes, the party committees concerned are first required to firmly grasp and correctly implement the requirements for the party organization congresses at various levels. The most important requirements are to develop democracy and collective wisdom, and improve the sense of responsibility of those party cadres and members participating in the discussions held to contribute views on the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress. In addition, we should adopt a correct stance and a evaluation method when it comes to contributing views on the draft political report to be presented at the national party congress. This report rounds up the actual situation regarding the renovation carried out by our country since the Sixth Party Congress. Therefore, while discussing the renovation situation over the past four years, specific attention should also be given to the economic, political, and social situation at a time when the draft political report was made public for discussion. During discussions, it is necessary to compare the situation over the past four years with that during the preceding five-year period in order to accurately evaluate the current situation and come up with correct solutions. Renovation in the activities of the party should be carried out concretely right from grass-roots party organization congresses. All the views contributed to the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress as well as all the roundups of the activities of party organizations during their recent terms of office and those agendas for higher-echelon party congresses should reflect the wisdom of all of the party organizations and people and point out the orientation for furthering the renovation of infrastructure. It is necessary to truly renovate the way of holding congresses, both in terms of form and substance, in order to attain realistic results, trying to ensure that such congresses are conducted in an extremely economical and unostentatious fashion and that the tendency to make too generalized statements should be done away with.

Preparing and conducting party organization congresses at various levels should be linked with efforts to implement various resolutions of the central Party Committee and the Political Bureau, to consolidate the party by another important step, and purify and improve the militancy of the contingent of party members. This is also a part of the effort to carry out renovation, strengthen party leadership, revamp the unity and singlemindedness within the party on the basis of the party line, strengthen blood-and-flesh relations between the party and the people, and generate a mass movement for the renovation undertaking.

A decisive factor for the success of party organization congresses at various levels is that the party committee collective and individual party committee members alike should personally make their preparations for these congresses. This process should be carried out in a truly democratic fashion with a view to developing the wisdom of party organizations, and promoting the contributions of views by the people, including those constructive views on the draft docuemnts, agendas, and personnel affairs of the national party congress.

Chairman Do Muoi's Book Published in Hanoi

BK0204144291 Hanoi VNA in English 1250 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 2—A collection of articles and speeches on renovation by Do Muoi, politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has been put out by the 'Su That' (Truth) Publishing House in Hanoi. The book is titled 'Lets Continue With Renovation and Firmly Stabilize the Situation for More Vigorous Developments.' In his speeches and writings, Chairman Do Muoi analysed the socio-economic situation, the important changes since renovation began and the lessons on management to be learnt in order to carry the socio-economic renovation programme to fruition.

Localities Review Services to Returning Refugees

BK0304055791 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Recently, Hai Phong City and Quang Ninh Province reviewed the work over the past two years in receiving the people who illegally departed for Hong Kong and asked to return to unite with their families.

Reports from representatives of the receiving offices and offices of the Ministries of Interior; Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare; and Foreign Affairs prove that after more than two years with 53 rounds of receptions, the returnees have not been discriminated against. They all have promptly registered their households to quickly settle their lives. The provincial reception offices have coordinated with governments at all levels to solve the initial needs of the returnees: giving people back the houses they left behind, giving land to people who had sold their houses, and assigning children who returned with their parents to school classes.

Apart from assistance from local governments, the returnees have also received full allowances from the UN High Commission for Refugees to help them obtain production means in order to become permanently settled.

In Hai Phong and Quang Ninh, with the assistance of some international organizations, training and vocational centers have been set up to provide three- to nine-month courses on sewing, electronics, carpentry, and car repair for returned youths and unemployed local youths.

Among the nearly 8,000 returnees from refugee camps in Hong Kong and Southeast Asian countries, there are many people who came back with a determination to start a new life. They quickly integrated into society and have done well economically. But some returnees are still in the habit of spending money profusely and being too lazy to work. Therefore, they continue to cause disturbances in order and security. Some even carry social diseases. Hence, the reception of returnees is a complicated social issue.

For many years, the Vietnam Government, together with related countries and international organizations, tried to find a solution to the refugee problem. After the countries that initially received refugees decided to close the doors of their refugee camps, consider the boat people illegal arrivals, force them to return to their own country, and not allow them to settle in any third countries, the Vietnam Government readied to accept anyone who agreed to return.

The number of people who fled the country decreased considerably in 1990. But recently, distorted information has been disseminated in order to cause instability and encourage people to flee. Due to incorrect information and blind belief, some people still take that risky bet. They never believe that they will either die on the high seas or be detained hopelessly in refugee camps waiting for the day to return.

This is the image [video shown] we just recorded at the People's Security Force Station in Hai Ninh District of Mong Cai. These people were arrested on their way to cross the border. Most of them are from Dong Nai and Hai Ninh Districts.

Speaking at a recent meeting in Quang Ninh, Mr. (Moucher), who is the chief of the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] in Hanoi, highly valued Vietnam's efforts in receiving the returnees and in stopping the people who want to cross the border. He said: Last year, together with those who returned voluntarily, there were about 100,000 people allowed to leave under the Orderly Departure Program. In 1990 the people who left illegally in the north decreased by 90 percent compared with 1989. There have been some people who left by land to Hong Kong via China but most of them were from the southern provinces, and left due to lack of information or misleading propaganda there.

Our duty is to do whatever is necessary to make people understand that information can be misleading and that there will be no hope for those who depart illegally except that they will have to return to the fatherland because no other country wants to accept them. Besides, the UNHCR will call on other international organizations to provide aid to the returnees and the Vietnamese community.

Nguyen Khanh Addresses Tourism Conference

BK2903054191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] The Ministry of Culture, Information, and Tourism held a conference in Hanoi from 25 to 27 March to review tourism-related work in 1990 and discuss measures for future activity. Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, attended.

In 1990, despite numerous difficulties, the tourist sector obtained some encouraging results, serving nearly 250,000 foreign visitors, up by 14 percent over 1989, and more than 1 million local tourists. The sector reported a revenue of 650 billion Vietnamese dong, U.S. $29 million, and more than 3 milion rubles. Using its own capital, the sector invested 76 billion dong for the building of material and technical bases. It commissioned 16 new hotels, increasing the number of rooms to 13,500 with a total of more than 23,700 beds. Last year, the state granted the tourist sector 39 investment licenses with a total prescribed capital of more than U.S. $112 million. In 1991, the sector will strive to attract 300,000 foreign tourists, organize trips for about 10,000 Vietnamese to visit foreign countries for tourist purposes, develop domestic tourism, and continue to invest in building material and technical bases and improve service quality.

Speaking at the conference, Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh commended the tourist sector's efforts over the past year. He stressed the importance of tourism development in our country, saying that tourism should not be regarded solely as a profit-making business but also as an undertaking with an important function: to introduce the country's scenic spots, the Vietnamese people, and the national culture to foreign guests. To this end, the tourist services of all localities and the sectors and levels concerned should pay greater attention to and make greater effort in this field. The Council of Ministers will promulgate relevant regulations soon to help solve difficulties to promote the tourist sector's activities.

Radio Reports Nationwide Agricultural Production

BK0204151491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry reported that peasants throughout the country have put 2,127,640 hectares under winter-spring rice, exceeding plan norm by 0.85 percent or 53,220 hectares more than the same crop last year.

The Ministry urged localities to carry out the following tasks in the next 10 days:

In the north, efforts should be made to care for the early winter-spring ricefields. There was drizzling rain and less sunshine in the past period, thus encouraging the spreading of harmful insects, especially rice blast. As a result, peasants should monitor the movement of these insects to promptly eradicate them.

In the south, peasants should continue to harvest the winter-spring rice. Localities should strive to eradicate brown planthoppers which are spreading on the late winter-spring ricefield while preparing for the summer-fall crop.

Australia

'Problems' in Relations With Malaysia Viewed

BK3103093591 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 31 Mar 91

[From the "Internatioanl Report" program]

[Excerpts] Australia's prime minister, Bob Hawke, is taking advantage of the Commonwealth meeting in London in June to meet with his Malaysian counterpart, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, to try and solve the problems between their two countries. In recent months, bilateral relations have taken a dive. As was first reported on Radio Australia recently, the Malaysian Government has issued a directive to its departments to downgrade ties with Australia. The directive issued last October following a cabinet meeting, said nonessential ties and contacts should be suspended, and Malaysian officials should not respond to invitation to visit Australia.

What lies behind this directive? Why is Malaysia seeking out Australia for particular censure? Our correspondent, Wong Puan Wah, has been Radio Australia's correspondent in Kuala Lumpur for many years, and he compiled this report.

[Begin Wong recording] Both the Malaysian and Australian foreign ministries are reluctant to discuss the issues publicly. It is a matter of some sensitivity, and officials on both sides prefer to tackle the problem the normal way—that is, by quiet diplomacy. Australian officials point out that unlike Dr. Mahathir's "Buy British Last" directive in 1985, which was given wide publicity and announced when a British trade minister was actually visiting Kuala Lumpur, there was minimal publicity regarding the directive against Australia. This has been interpreted that while the Malaysian Government wants to state it is unhappy with Australia, it is at the same time anxious to avoid any escalation. Certainly, commercial ties have not been affected, and Australian businessmen in Malaysia report no evidence of discrimination. Most analysts agree the manner in which the Malaysian Government has sought to express its unhappiness bears the hallmarks of Dr. Mahathir. [passage omitted]

But panelists agree the problem goes beyond the personality of Dr. Mahathir. It has to do with an evolving relationship and changing perceptions. Pick an occasion, for example. During the 1960s and 1970s, thousands of Malaysians benefited from an Australian education through the Colombo Plan and subsidized fees. But, today, Malaysian students are paying full fees. In fact, they are buying a commodity from Australia no different from wheat or sugar. Yet, Australia still portrays the education trade as a favor to Malaysia.

Another area of change is defense. Australia contributed substantially to Malaysia's defense during World War II, the communist emergency, and Indonesian confrontation. But today, the Five-Power Defense Arrangement, with Malaysia, Singapore, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand, is largely symbolic. Dr. Mahathir pays little attention to it. So, the old ties that bind are either breaking down or the nature drastically transformed. In their place are harsh realities of economic and political combination. Professor Pathmanathan, professor of government and foreign policy at the University of Malaya, says a more assertive Malaysian foreign policy and trade issues are areas of friction with Australia. But he disagrees with my argument that the Five-Power Defense Arrangement is a skeleton without substance. [passage omitted]

Malaysian leaders in general, and Dr. Mahathir in particular, are irritated by what they perceived as a patronizing attitude by Australians towards Asians reflected among the Australian media, politicians, and environmentalists. The Malaysian argument goes like this: Fair enough, we are not as democratic as the United States or Australia. But why pick on us all the time.

Privately, Malaysian leaders will not deny that the Internal Security Act [ISA] sometimes has been used for purely political purposes. Neither do they deny that occasionally ISA detainees were badly treated. But Malaysia is no police state as sections of the Australian media and former Malaysian detainees now living in Australia have tried to portray. A former Singapore foreign minister, S. Rajaratnam, once remarked that the Western media will only play up a story if Westernized liberals are arrested under the ISA. When the ISA is applied to religious fanatics, racial chauvinists, or communists, the Western media is not interested. It is a sentiment shared by Malaysian leaders.

The sense applies to Malaysia's race relations. Privately, Malaysian leaders will not deny that Malaysian Chinese are being discriminated—the progress retarded to allow the Malays to catch up. But according to Dr. Mahathir, Australia has no right to lecture Malaysia on how to manage its race relations when it has such an atrocious record towards its own aborigines. But, Prof. Lee says while Australians need to pay more attention to Asian sensitivities and their environment, Asians also have to appreciate that Australians are learning about their northern neighbors. And Asians should be more magnanimous in their censure. [passage omitted]

Both Professors Lee and Pathmanathan feel that Australian-Malaysian relations are based on solid foundations and that the current difficulties should not be overemphasized. They feel a meeting between the two prime ministers will go a long way to smoothen out the rough edges of an expanding and vibrant relationship. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Terrorist Attacks Said Foiled During Gulf War

BK0304112091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Brisbane, April 3 (AFP)—Australian police working with intelligence agencies foiled six potentially deadly terrorist plots in Australia during the Gulf war, a senior government security expert said Wednesday.

The head of security for the federal Attorney-General's Department Allan Behm said the six attempts were all "Gulf-related" and could have caused loss of life. He added there could have been many more plots which were foiled by the extra security measures at airports, embassies and multinational companies—"but we'll never know for sure."

Mr. Behm said the six failed plots were in addition to seven other successful attacks which did occur in Australia during the war. They included firebombings of Jewish synagogues and a Jewish pre-school in Melbourne and attacks on mosques in Sydney.

A building belonging to the American Chamber of Commerce in Sydney was also attacked and set on fire, causing damage estimated at 40,000 Australian dollars (31,000 U.S.).

Mr. Behm said full details of the successful and unsuccessful attacks had only just been collated by the government's internal security agency, the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation (ASIO). But he said the details would probably never be made public because the information on how the security forces had stopped the attacks could help future terrorists.

He did confirm, however, that one of the unsuccessful attacks involved a man who allegedly offered to place a bomb aboard an airliner, a case which has received widespread publicity.

State and federal police and security agencies spent millions of dollars on extra security measures during the Gulf war in an attempt to deter would-be attackers.

He had earlier told a "Defence and the Media" conference here that extra security for embassies, consulates, businesses, diplomatic homes, politicians and others were part of a deliberate policy to prevent terrorist attacks.

Diplomatic sources say United States, British and other "coalition" diplomats in Canberra even had their normal diplomatic registration plates, which identify their country, changed to Australian capital territory plates to foil attacks.

Mr. Behm said Australian security agencies had developed a "comprehensive" policy to deal with terrorist attacks, heavily weighted to preventative measures. He warned that security agencies now expected new forms of terrorism during the 1990s as acts of state-sponsored terrorism declined.

There would be a preference for civilian targets, deliberately aimed at causing casualties to members of the public, rather than against military or political institutions.

Crime-related terrorism, which he described as incidents like the car bomb explosion outside the Victorian police headquarters in Melbourne in 1987, was likely to increase, he said.

Mr. Behm also said international security agencies expected an increase in "narco-terrorism" where drug bosses used terrorist tactics to force governments to ease anti-drug laws.

Two News Corp Newspapers 'Axed' To Cut Costs

BK0304082691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Melbourne, April 3 (AFP)—Two Sunday newspapers launched here by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Ltd. only 20 months ago are to be axed as part of the company's latest cost cutting drive, the company announced Wednesday.

The up-market broadsheet SUNDAY HERALD will disappear immediately and its stablemate the tabloid SUNDAY SUN will reappear as a new Sunday edition of the 24-hour daily, the HERALD-SUN.

Seventy editorial jobs will be lost, but News Corp said it hopes to avoid sackings by offering voluntary redundancy.

Malcolm Colless, managing director of the subsidiary Herald and Weekly Times, said the decision to close the broadsheet was prompted by losses of 15 million (11.6 million U.S.) a year. The sharp decline in the economy since the launch of the SUNDAY HERALD had made its closure unavoidable, he said.

The SUNDAY SUN, launched by Rupert Murdoch on the same day as the SUNDAY HERALD, would be "significantly boosted" to provide additional benefits for its readers.

The daily HERALD-SUN was the product of a merger announced at the same time of the morning MELBOURNE SUN and the afternoon MELBOURNE HERALD, two of Australia's longest established and most respected papers with declining circulations.

The closures were announced only 24 hours after News Corp's London-based chief operating officer Gus Fischer announced the beginning of a rationalisation program aimed at cutting costs by at least 10 per cent over 12 months.

In an interview published here, Mr. Fischer said reductions would come from throughout the group and would include staff cuts in the 40,000 news workforce, consolidation of operations and lower capital expenditure.

"I believe personally that we should be able, in order of magnitude, to reduce costs by 10 per cent at least within 12 months or less," Mr. Fischer said.

Brokers said the report helped push up the News Corp share price in trading Tuesday on the Australian Stock Exchange, rising eight cents at the mid-session to 8.70 Australian dollars and it jumped again Wednesday to nine dollars.

The National FINANCIAL DAILY noted a 10 per cent cost reduction could increase operating income before interest by up to 700 million Australian dollars (541 million U.S.) based on 1990 results.

Swiss-born Mr. Fischer, moved from managing director of News International PLC to chief operating officer in late January as the group restructured its 8.2 billion U.S. dollar debt.

Mr. Fischer said the group's newspapers, electronic media and book publishing operations were not for sale.

French Polynesia

Vernaudon Elected Territorial Assembly President

BK2903035491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0353 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Papeete, French Polynesia, March 29 (AFP)—Emile Vernaudon was elected Thursday as president of French Polynesia's territorial assembly, winning 37 assembly votes against four to pro-independence candidate Oscar Temaru.

His election, by the widest margin ever in the assembly, followed a deal between Mr. Vernaudon and veteran rightist leader Gaston Flosse, whose Tahoeraa Huiraatira grouping is close to the neo-Gaullist RPR party in mainland France.

The poll comes in the wake of elections on March 17 to the territorial assembly, which in principle governs the far-flung island territory, but which in fact is often accused of being only a rubber-stamp for decisions made in Paris.

Mr. Vernaudon vowed that he would "give back to the assembly the role and the position that it should never have lost in the first place."

Mr. Flosse is expected to be elected president of the local executive, the council of ministers, on Saturday. His party has 18 seats out of the assembly's 41, while Mr. Vernaudon's non-aligned Ai'a Api (new fatherland) group has five.

More on 'Sweeping Victory'

BK2903131091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] In French Polynesia, Emile Vernaudon, the leader of the seven-member New Land Party, has won a sweeping victory for the presidency of the Territorial Assembly. He defeated his only rival, the charismatic, pro-independence leader Oscar Temaru, 37 to 4. Here is our South Pacific correspondent Jemimah Gareth.

[Begin Gareth recording] Mr. Vernaudon's victory follows this month's general election in which his middle-of-the-road New Land Party won the balance of power in the 41-seat Assembly. That put Mr. Vernaudon in a very powerful position. Yesterday, he and his five party colleagues, who won seats in the election, were joined by two others—both defectors from the former governing coalition led by (Jean Juventun) and Alexandre Leontieff.

In his race for presidency, Mr. Vernaudon competed against Oscar Temaru, the leader of the anti-nuclear, pro-independence, Polynesian Liberation Front. The radical Temaru has refused to join any government that will not immediately agree to an end to French nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll and to press France and the United Nations for independence for French Polynesia. But none of the other parties are prepared to agree to those demands, Mr. Vernaudon has gained control over the spoils of government. As a result, he won the backing of the two major blocks, (Juventun) and Leontieff's nine-member Polynesian Union and Gaston Flosse's Conservative 18-member Tahoeraa Huiraatira Party for the post of President of the Assembly.

Mr. Vernaudon's 37 to 4 victory could be the biggest in French Polynesia's history. The new president, who is also a member of the French National Assembly and mayor of Mahaena, faces an overspent territorial budget and growing problems resulting from high levels of unemployment and an increasing flow of people from the outer islands to Papeete. Speaking of his elections, Mr. Vernaudon said his priorities were to attract more tourists and investment, and to focus on economic development and political honesty. He also pledged more works for the newly-elected government.

While the position of the president of the Territorial Assembly is a crucial one, the more powerful post is that of president of the Territorial Government. The president of the Territorial Government holds executive power and appoints government ministers. Elections for that post are due to take place on 30 March. The three candidates are Gaston Flosse, a former French secretary of state for the South Pacific and leader of the 18-member Tahoeraa Huiraatira, incumbent Alexandre Leontieff from the nine-member Polynesian Union, and the Polynesian Liberation Front's Oscar Temaru. On the numbers, the charismatic Mr. Flosse has to be the front runner. He has publicly announced the alliance with Mr. Vernaudon and has promised the New Land three ministerial posts. [end recording]

New Caledonia

Union Leader: Tribal Disputes Threaten Future

BK2903080791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0530 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Noumea, March 29 (AFP)—Disputes between traditional tribal chiefs and elected officials in New Caledonia threaten the economic development of the French Pacific territory and its future independent structure, a political leader said here Friday.

Francois Burck, president of the Caledonian Union (CU), the main pro-independence party, said the role of the chiefs needed to be clearly defined or there could be further disputes like the one currently raging between the elected mayor of Lifou island and local chiefs.

Mayor Hamu Cono, a senior CU leader and vice-president of the provincial government, has come under fire from the chiefs of several clans following heated litigation over a piece of land destined to be the site of a pier for a future inter-islands ferry.

The chiefs have accused Mr. Hamu Cono of siding with one of the clans claiming the land and have banned him from visiting several of the island's districts, effectively paralysing the community.

"It is not the function of the traditional chiefs to cast doubt on the mandate of a mayor elected by universal suffrage and this type of problem begs the question whether the future Kanak republic will be democratic and socialist... Or will be a number of small hereditary kingdoms," Mr. Burck said. "If it is the latter, then I will oppose independence," he added in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Previously such disputes had pitted the European colonists against the ethnic Kanak population, he said, but now "they oppose the Kanaks against each other."

Calling for Kanak unity, he said these problems had to be sorted out "or there will be no economic development." The chiefs must understand that "political authority is superior to traditional authority", he added.

The problems had arisen because of development projects which brought money into the territory and "awakened financial interest", causing the clans who owned the land where the projects were to be built to fight among themselves, Mr. Burck said.

A referendum is due to be held in 1999 on the territory's independence.

Papua New Guinea

Somare on Alleged Corruption in Timber Industry

BK0304100991 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Apr 91

[From the program "International Report"]

[Text] Papua New Guinea's foreign minister, Sir Michael Somare, has reacted angrily to reports that international pressure is being marshalled against Port Moresby over corruption in the timber industry. Sir Michael says he will not allow foreign parliaments to dictate what happens in his country. From Port Moresby, Brian Abbot reports:

[Begin recording] [Abbot] Papua New Guinea has earned its place on the conservationists' black list for failing to move quickly to implement the findings of the inquiry into the timber industry. Politicians, community leaders, and timber companies were named. But, so far, few have been brought to justice. There was also evidence that logging companies had caused devastating environmental damage in fragile tropical rain forest areas. In an attempt to swing the international spotlight on what is happening in Papua New Guinea forests, motions condemning the government have been introduced in the American Congress, the Japanese Diet, and the European Parliament. Sir Michael Somare rejects the moves as interference in Papua New Guinea affairs.

[Somare] We do not allow American Congress, or Japanese Diet, or European Parliament to dictate their terms to government and telling people of Papua New Guinea how to run their own affairs. No. We have problems here, certainly. The (Bernard) Report has been presented. The report has been made available. Government has done its job; government set up a commission of inquiry; government has finished up the inquiries. Now, it has been presented to prosecutor, it is entirely up to them. Government will not interfere, and there is no intention to direct the [words indistinct] Commission or state prosecutor in any way at all. We have done our part, and I think these are facts of the type of laws that we inherited and that is our affair.

[Abbot] While concerned about the environmental damage, Sir Michael said Papua New Guinea had laws to ensure all timber operations were nonpolluting.

[Somare] Everyone in this country are concerned about the environment, and I am hoping that those who enter into agreement with the timber companies will make sure onus is also on them, to make sure that timber companies do not only exploit the timber resources but making sure the environment is not polluted. I think we have the laws in our legislation that protect the pollution of environment, and this will again depend upon the people who are exploiting the resources, and government, and technical people to make sure that the environment is not polluted. [end recording]